

Afghan king appeals for unity among rebels

ROME (AP) — The exiled king of Afghanistan Saturday appealed to rebel groups fighting the Afghan government to put aside their differences to push for elections.

King Zahir Shah's appeal came a few days after rebels declared they would reject any U.S.-Soviet deal to end their 12-year-old fight to oust Kabul's Communist-style government.

Talks about how to end the Afghan civil war are expected to be high on the agenda later this month when U.S. President George Bush meets with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington.

Western diplomats and Afghan experts in Pakistan have said one possible solution could be an election run by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, or by a "neutral" body chosen by both organisations.

The ex-king made his appeal in a written statement issued in Rome, where he has lived in exile since 1973, when his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, staged a coup with the help of Afghanistan's then-fledgling Communists.

Addressing his appeal to the fragmented rebel groups, Zahir Shah said they "should not now

lay claim to political leadership without preparing the opportunity of referring it to the vote of the Afghan people, which is the fundamental criterion for obtaining political leadership."

The loose coalition of rebel groups is deeply divided. Adding to the political difficulties is Afghan President Najibullah's refusal to step down before free elections—a pre-condition set by even the most moderate guerrilla groups, whose headquarters are in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

Moderate Afghan groups have pushed for the restoration of the 75-year-old king as the only way to avoid a bloody struggle between rival guerrilla groups. In the past, Zahir Shah has said he is ready to offer "any service" in the search for a peaceful political settlement in his homeland following the withdrawal of Soviet troops in early 1989.

Last year, a radical Afghan rebel leader accused the United States of plotting to return the ex-king to Afghanistan in an

effort to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in Kabul.

In his appeal Saturday, the monarch said he has "no personal consideration or claim to any special privilege whatsoever. My sole objective is the attainment of national unity and cohesion among the various sides of Afghan society and the establishment of peace in the country."

As a "first step" toward peace, he said, "measures should be undertaken for an understanding between the various circles which support the Jihad and the other effective elements of the Afghan society. At the same time, contacts should be made at international and regional levels in order to attain increased effectiveness," he said.

Asked just what kind of measures the king had in mind, his spokesman and brother-in-law, Gen. Abdul Wali, declined to elaborate. He also declined to comment on prospects that might develop from the U.S.-Soviet talks in Washington.

For nine years, more than 103,000 Soviet soldiers fought along with Afghan Communist troops trying to quash the rebels, who were supplied by the United States. The Soviet troops were withdrawn in accordance with a U.N.-brokered agreement.

Ethiopia warns German aid ship against sailing to Massawa Port

NAIROBI (R) — The Ethiopian authorities have told a West German charity shipping about 1,500 tonnes of food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia that it cannot use the rebel-held port of Massawa.

The rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said Saturday the Ethiopian government had threatened to bomb the ship, a Danish vessel chartered by the charity Cap Anamur, if it docked at Massawa as planned.

It would have been the first food aid vessel to enter the port since it fell to the EPLF in February.

"The latest information we have is that the ship has been diverted to Port Sudan," an EPLF spokesman told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from London.

"We told them we could not ensure their security at Massawa because of the threat of air attacks," he said.

In Addis Ababa, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said only that the ship had been advised to sail south to the government-held port of Asab, because Massawa was off-limits to shipping.

He declined to give further details and it was not clear whether the ship had gone to Port Sudan or to Asab.

The capture of Massawa cut the main entry route for food supplies for up to 4.5 million drought victims threatened with starvation this year across northern Ethiopia.

The Soviet-backed government has carried out sporadic air

attacks on Massawa since February and rejected an EPLF offer to open the port for supplies to both rebel and government-held areas.

Food aid is at present being brought by two routes to Eritrea, badly hit by the drought and split between rebel and government areas of control.

The EPLF's relief agency sends food by road from Port Sudan. For government-controlled areas, a U.N.-sponsored airlift to the provincial capital Asmara began 10 days ago.

Relief agencies battling against the threat of famine in rebel-held areas of northern Ethiopia warned Friday that food stocks at a key Red Sea port had dropped to alarming levels.

"We appeal to the international donor community to speed up delivery of pledged food aid to Ethiopia before it is too little, too late," Francis Stephenson, coordinator of a group of church-based relief agencies, told Reuters.

He said stocks in the port of Asab had dropped to 15,000 tonnes, barely one month's planned supply for the rebel-held areas where the United Nations says up to 4.5 million people face starvation.

"Unless we are able to hold enough stock of food aid in the rebel-held areas before the rainy season next month we fear the situation could develop into a catastrophe," he added.

Francis said the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP) had trucked over 10,000 tonnes of food into northern Wollo and Tigray provinces in the 52 days since it

started carrying emergency supplies across military lines.

The two provinces have been crippled by drought and years of guerrilla warfare.

Francis said that following repairs to roads in the area about 100 trucks were now carrying 800 tonnes of aid each day.

The JRP aimed to move 14,500 tonnes a month before seasonal rains made routes impassable, he said.

JRP observers who toured the affected regions last week reported severe drought but said starving people had not yet abandoned their villages in search of food.

In Geneva, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced the beginning of an airlift to the 500,000 people in the rebel-surrounded Eritrean capital Asmara in the north.

The first U.N.-sponsored flight arrived from Addis Ababa on May 3 with 30 tonnes of tents, feeding kits, first aid kits and cooking items. Another aircraft flew in Thursday with blankets, generators, tents and children's food.

Thirty more flights are planned in the next three months, eight by the end of May.

None of the relief being transported across rebel lines by the Ethiopian churches has been going to rebel-held areas in Eritrea, relief workers said.

They added that some food has been unloaded across the border at Port Sudan further up the Red Sea coast and trucked in to Eritrea by private relief agencies.



Children gather in a new school in the rebel held province of Eritrea where the threat of famine is increasing.

'Shamir had no prior knowledge of Jewish settlement in Old City'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he had no prior knowledge about plans to establish a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City or about the government's secret funding of the project.

Shamir made the statement in a conversation with the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, who reported to the premier about his meeting with U.S. President George Bush last week, Shamir's aide Avi Pazner said.

"Yes, it's true that he (Shamir) did not know of the settlement beforehand," Pazner said in an interview.

The April 11 move of 150 settlers into a 72-room complex owned by the Greek Orthodox Church has sparked protests by Christian and Muslim Arabs and touched off a controversy that strained Israel's relations with the United States.

The settlers evacuated St.

John's Hospice on May 1 following an order from Israel's supreme court. Some 20 caretakers remain inside pending a decision on the property dispute in which the church claims that a former tenant illegally sold his lease to the settlers.

Leaders of Christian churches in the Holy Land closed holy sites including Church of the Holy Sepulchre near the settlements, on April 27 in protest over the settlers' move.

Five days before the church action, Israel's Housing Ministry revealed that it secretly put some \$1.8 million to help fund the settlement and that the Finance Ministry was aware of the funding.

Shamir has been in charge of the Finance Ministry since the mid-March collapse of a coalition that united his hardline Likud Bloc and the centre-left Labour Party of former finance minister, Shimon Peres.

But Pazner insisted that "first of all, the initial sums were given when Peres was finance minister."

The rest of the money, he said, was transferred without Shamir's knowledge as the move did not demand Shamir's approval.

"Not every sum you have to ask the finance minister for, therefore Shamir did not know," Pazner said.

Pazner said the prime minister viewed the controversy created by the Old City settlement as "blown out of proportion."

Jerusalem municipality spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer refrained from comment on Shamir's statement.

She said Kollek "stands by everything he said, which was that the settlement in the Christian Quarter was a mistake and that he believes there was an exaggeration on the part of the Christians."

Scientists warn of pollution threat to marine life off Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — The leader of an international team of scientists mapping Oman's strategic northern Musandam coast warned Saturday that extensive marine pollution threatened the peninsula's fragile ecosystems.

A 10-week survey completed earlier this week had revealed substantial underwater and coastal pollution caused by oil spills, flotsam and trash washed up on beaches, said Dr. Rod Salm, head of the government-sponsored study, in a statement to the Associated Press.

Musandam controls the 60-kilometre long Strait of Hormuz separating Oman from Iran. One sixth of the world's oil supply passes through the strait from the Gulf Arab states.

Salm, 42, a Muscat-based marine biologist, blamed elements of the pollution build-up on small boat traders motoring

across the strait from Iran, and from Pakistan, to the Gulf ports of Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah.

He said they left a trail of wreckage and litter along the peninsula's inlets and sandy beach nesting grounds were globally important species of endangered hawksbill and green turtles lay their eggs.

The 15,000-square-kilometre mountain peninsula just into Gulf, separating it from the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean. The province is divided from the rest of Oman by a 70-kilometre strip of territory controlled by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The mapping survey covered 650 kilometres of coastline from Tibet on the western Musandam coast bordering the UAE in the Gulf, to Diba Al Bayah on the peninsula's eastern border with the UAE in the Gulf of Oman.

"We are extremely concerned at the huge extent of the pollution in evidence," said Salm, 42, from Baltimore, Maryland, who is on attachment from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

"It has sacrificed the usefulness of the beaches for fishermen and pre-empted government development plans for recreation and tourism."

Complaining in particular about the Iranian and Pakistani small-boat traders, he said they "leave all sorts of rubbish behind them." He listed sighted smashed hulls, broken up cargoes, torn clothing, cartons of cigarettes and tin cans.

"Some pollution is possibly a direct result of the tanker war but we have no real before and after picture because this is the first time the coast has been mapped in this way," said Salm.

Iranian aide urges hostages' release

NICOSIA (AP) — A top Iranian official called for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and said Washington could show goodwill by releasing billions of dollars in Iranian assets, the Tehran Times reported Saturday.

He quoted Hussein Musavian, director-general of Iran's Foreign Ministry, as saying the recent release of two American captives was due to his country's efforts.

But Musavian said as long as the United States continues its "hostile and negative" attitude towards Iran, there can be no possibility of an improvement in relations.

"However, the way is open for the United States to prove its goodwill," he was quoted as saying in the interview, conducted originally in Vienna with Austrian journalists.

Asked what Washington could do to show its goodwill, he said, "their hands are free for taking positive practical steps, such as the release of Iranian assets frozen by them for years."

The United States and Iran agreed Wednesday on settling

some 3,200 claims, worth about 50 million, filed against the Iranian government by U.S. citizens who were in Iran when the revolution seized power in 1979.

Most of these claims involve loss of personal property. This was believed to be a step forward toward settling a multibillion-dollar dispute festering since 1979 after Washington froze Iranian assets.

Iran says the frozen assets amount to \$11 billion but the United States says the figure is exaggerated.

"We believe that all countries, especially those that have influence in Lebanon, should exert their maximum efforts for the release of the hostages," Musavian said.

"The criteria for these efforts should be to release all hostages regardless of their nationality, solely for humanitarian causes and without any preconditions or deals."

It was the latest in a series of statements from Iranian officials saying the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon, most of whom are held

by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim groups, should be freed.

But after the recent release of Robert Pothill, 55, and Frank Reed, 57, Iran and the hostage-holders have demanded a goodwill gesture from the United States before further releases.

"In order to show the world that we are interested and believe in the release of innocent human beings, we made a lot of efforts in Lebanon in the past few months and succeeded in convincing Lebanese Muslim groups through insistence and a lot of pressures to release two American hostages without any preconditions," Musavian said.

But further progress on the issue could be conditional on movement on the issue of "hundreds of Muslim hostages" held by Israel and its proxies in South Lebanon and Israel itself, he said.

"It is only a natural expectation of world public opinion that the other side should show goodwill towards the great act of the Lebanese groups, and release the Muslim hostages," Musavian said.

Colombia tears up visa agreement with Israel in weapons protest

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia has made visas obligatory for all Israeli visitors in what a government source said was intended as a strong protest over drug traffickers' use of Israeli weapons and mercenaries.

The Foreign Ministry said Colombia had informed the Israeli ambassador in Bogota of its decision to revoke 1962 and 1966 agreements allowing Israeli citizens to visit without a visa.

"Consequently, any Israeli citizen — whether diplomat, soldier, student or whoever — will need a visa to enter the country," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

A government source said the

decision was intended as a strong protest over disclosures that Colombian cocaine traffickers had received Israeli arms and used Israeli mercenaries to train their private armies.

The powerful drug traffickers have killed more than 250 people in bombings and assassinations since they declared war on the state last August.

A scandal over Israeli arms found in the hands of drug traffickers is shaking Colombia, Israel and the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

Colombian police discovered more than 250 Israeli-made guns on the farm of Jose Gonzalo

Rodriguez Gacha, a top drug trafficker killed in a shootout with police last December.

Colombia asked Israel for an explanation. Israel said it sold the weapons legally to Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean country's government had guaranteed they would not be sold to a third country.

Antigua and Barbuda has opened an investigation into the affair.

Colombia has also accused Israeli and British mercenaries of helping the drug traffickers to train private armies. The armies have been blamed for massacring civilians in northern Colombia.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:20	Cultural programme
18:30	Arabic review
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
21:50	Arabic review
22:00	Local programme
22:30	Arabic review
22:40	Local programme
22:50	Arabic review
23:00	Local programme
23:30	Arabic review
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:55	Tel Fere Tel Film
18:15	L'ecole de fane
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:00	Arabic review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:45	Who's the Boss?
21:10	World of Puppets
21:30	News in English
22:20	Agatha Christie's Poirot
PRAYER TIMES	
04:47	Fair
05:35	(Sunrise) Daba
12:32	Dhura
14:12	'Asr

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
<p>19:28 Maghreb</p> <p>20:56 'Isha</p>	
CHURCHES	
<p>St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740</p> <p>Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785</p> <p>St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590</p> <p>Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440</p> <p>De la Salle Church Tel. 661757</p> <p>Terrace Church Tel. 622366</p> <p>Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541</p> <p>Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628243</p> <p>Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331</p> <p>Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261</p> <p>St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751</p> <p>Assam International Church Tel. 665326</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295</p> <p>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932</p>	
WEATHER	
<p>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</p> <p>It will continue to be cloudy and relatively cold, with possible light local showers. Winds will be northwesterly</p>	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
<p>AMMAN:</p> <p>Dr. Khaddoua Klob 826919</p> <p>Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 771020</p> <p>Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 775050</p> <p>Dr. Hanna Mansour 732574</p> <p>Fine pharmacy 622520</p> <p>Fordway pharmacy 783336</p> <p>Al Asena pharmacy 637025</p> <p>Nairookh pharmacy 623072</p> <p>Al Salha pharmacy 636730</p> <p>Yacoub pharmacy 644945</p> <p>Simcrist pharmacy 637660</p> <p>TEBID:</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)</p> <p>Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)</p>	
NIGHT DUTY	
<p>AMMAN:</p> <p>Dr. Khaddoua Klob 826919</p> <p>Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 771020</p> <p>Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 775050</p> <p>Dr. Hanna Mansour 732574</p> <p>Fine pharmacy 622520</p> <p>Fordway pharmacy 783336</p> <p>Al Asena pharmacy 637025</p> <p>Nairookh pharmacy 623072</p> <p>Al Salha pharmacy 636730</p> <p>Yacoub pharmacy 644945</p> <p>Simcrist pharmacy 637660</p> <p>TEBID:</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)</p> <p>Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)</p>	
JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
<p>moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.</p> <p>Amman Min./max. temp. 10 / 19</p> <p>Aqaba 18 / 30</p> <p>Deserta 18 / 30</p> <p>Jordan Valley 9 / 23</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.</p>	
EMERGENCIES	
<p>Civil Defence Department 661111</p> <p>Rescue 630341</p> <p>Civil Defence Emergency 199</p> <p>Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777</p> <p>Fire Brigade 891228</p> <p>Blood Bank 75121</p> <p>Highway Police 843402</p> <p>Traffic Police 896390</p> <p>Public Security Department 638251</p> <p>Hotel Complaints 698000</p> <p>Water and Sewerage 897467</p> <p>Complaints 767111</p> <p>Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121</p> <p>Overseas Calls 010230</p> <p>Central Amman Telephone 623101</p> <p>Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101</p> <p>Jordan Television 773111</p> <p>Radio Jordan 774111</p> <p>Water Authority 680100</p> <p>Jordan Electricity Authority 815615</p> <p>Electric Power Company 636381</p>	
HOSPITALS	
<p>AMMAN:</p> <p>Irbid Medical Centre 813813/32</p> <p>Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/6</p> <p>Akshid Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/6</p> <p>Jabal Amman Maternity 642362</p> <p>Malheur, J. Amn. 636140</p> <p>Palestine, Shamsiati 664171/4</p> <p>Shamsiati Hospital 669131</p> <p>University Hospital 845845</p> <p>Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9</p> <p>The Islamic, Abadi 66127/7</p> <p>Al-Ahli, Abadi 66164/6</p> <p>Italian, Al-Muhajireen 77101/3</p> <p>Al-Bashir, J. Astrafich 75111/25</p> <p>Arzy, Maris 891611/5</p> <p>Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50</p> <p>Amal Hospital 674155</p> <p>Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983332</p> <p>Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071</p> <p>IBAD:</p> <p>Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555</p> <p>Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775</p> <p>Ibn Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100</p> <p>AQABA:</p> <p>Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111</p>	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
<p>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.</p>	
ARRIVALS	
<p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>14:00 Jeddah (RJ)</p> <p>14:10 Kuwait (RJ)</p> <p>14:15 London (RJ)</p> <p>14:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</p> <p>15:15 Larnaca (RJ)</p> <p>17:45 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>18:00 New York Amsterdam (RJ)</p> <p>18:20 Paris (RJ)</p> <p>18:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)</p> <p>18:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)</p> <p>19:00 London (RJ)</p> <p>20:30 Munich, Aqaba (RJ)</p> <p>20:45 Rome (RJ)</p> <p>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</p> <p>05:20 Dubai (AZ)</p> <p>11:05 Cairo (MS)</p>	
DEPARTURES	
<p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>07:30 Munich (RJ)</p> <p>08:00 Aqaba (RJ)</p> <p>08:10 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>11:45 Rome (RJ)</p> <p>12:40 London (RJ)</p> <p>13:45 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>20:40 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>21:00 Riyadh (RJ)</p> <p>21:15 Baghdad (RJ)</p> <p>21:20 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</p> <p>22:15 Damascus (RJ)</p> <p>22:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)</p> <p>22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)</p> <p>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</p> <p>05:20 Dubai (AZ)</p> <p>11:05 Cairo (MS)</p>	
MARKET PRICES	
<p>Up/down price in file per kg.</p> <p>Almonds 800 / 700</p> <p>Apple 700 / 600</p> <p>Banana 500 / 450</p> <p>Banana (Mekasmar) 450 / 400</p> <p>Beet 450 / 50</p> <p>Broad beans 180 / 140</p> <p>Carrot 90 / 60</p> <p>Cauliflower 300 / 250</p> <p>Cucumber (large) 160 / 120</p> <p>Cucumber (small) 400 / 320</p> <p>Dates 150 / 120</p> <p>Eggplant 150 / 120</p> <p>Garlic 500 / 400</p> <p>Grapefruit 260 / 220</p> <p>Lemon 300 / 250</p> <p>Lettuce (per cwt) 150 / 100</p> <p>Malware 380 / 320</p> <p>Marrow (large) 160 / 120</p> <p>Marrow (small) 320 / 280</p> <p>Onion (dry) 200 / 240</p> <p>Onion (green) 200 / 150</p> <p>Orange 340 / 300</p> <p>Orange (Shamsiati) 450 / 400</p> <p>Pear 280 / 240</p> <p>Pepper (hot) 180 / 120</p> <p>Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150</p> <p>Potato 500 / 450</p> <p>Radishes 150 / 100</p> <p>Sage 400 / 300</p> <p>Spinach 220 / 160</p> <p>Tomatoes 240 / 180</p> <p>Watermelon 240 / 200</p>	

Jordan should rationalise water consumption — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total amount of water used for domestic purposes in Jordan is estimated at 180 million cubic metres annually and this is expected to rise to 260 million by the year 2005 due to population growth, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation, Dawud Khalaf.

"For this reason, the country ought to seek fresh water resources and rationalise consumption," the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Khalaf said an estimated 350 million cubic metres are annually used in agriculture, but more water supplies will be needed if agricultural projects are to be expanded.

Both in agriculture and for domestic use, amounts are being conservatively used and proper programmes are being implemented by the ministry to deal with this problem.

Since May 1, 1990 the ministry started implementing a water distribution programme in view of the expected increase in water consumption in the summer, and the arrival of vacationers in the coming months.

Khalaf said that the ministry was going ahead with work on a

pressurised water network in the Jordan Valley to replace the open canal system and avoid excessive loss of irrigation water due to evaporation.

"By the end of the second phase of the current project expected before the end of 1990, nearly 20 per cent of the normally lost water will be saved," the first phase cost JD 10 million while the second is expected to cost JD 18 million," the minister added.

Referring to surface water, the minister said that three dams: Al Mujib, Al Walch and Al Tanour are being implemented at present. When completed the three dams will together hold some 60 million cubic metres of water for irrigation, industry and domestic purposes. Khalaf said that the current projects are expected to cost JD 40 million.

"At present, the King Talal Dam, the Wadi Al Arab Dam and the Sharhabil Dam together hold 65 million cubic metres of water, of which 40 million are expected to be used for irrigation during the coming summer," Khalaf pointed out.

Referring to work on the Waddeh Dam on the Yarmouk River near the border with Syria,

the minister said that contracts are still underway with various world financial institutions to ensure funds for the expected JD 200 million project.

Once completed, the Waddeh Dam is expected to hold back 250 million cubic metres of water of which 50 million can be used for domestic purposes and 75 million for farming annually.

The minister said other options were available like searching further for underground water resources or importing water from other countries, a process that could become necessary in view of the increasing population.

"The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is maintaining close cooperation with the Ministry of Health to control the quality of water in the dams and to reduce the level of contamination in the waters of the Zarqa River," Khalaf said.

He said that treated wastewater in the Zarqa River where waste is dumped by factories along its banks can be used for irrigation only. But he said that close monitoring of the water revealed that some factories dump waste in the river or do not follow proper treatment procedures and make water unfit even for farming.

Arab World Institute director visits Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-general of the Arab World Institute (Institut du monde Arabe) which is based in Paris will address a press conference here Monday to outline the institute's various cultural activities and programmes.

Edgard Pisani, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, will give details about the work of the institute which was established in February 1980 as a joint project between the Arab World and France.

The institute is governed by a board of trustees representing all Arab countries and France. Its aim is to encourage cultural coop-

eration between France and the Arab World, especially in science and technology.

The institute houses a museum, an information centre, an audio-visual section and a permanent hall for displaying works of art as well as a data bank for information about cultural activities in the Arab World and France.

The institute built new headquarters in Paris in 1987; Jordan presented it with a sculpture by Jordanian artist Mona Saudi.

The 3.5 metre tall sculpture, now erected in the institute's main court, was inspired by Nabatean carvings.

Tourism is an important source for national income — Kabariti

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday called on tourist officers in the Arab World to act towards creating a united regional tourism zone and to adopt a unified, integrated tourist strategy that can best serve the Arab World's economy.

"Tourism is of paramount importance to the Arab World and is regarded as one of the main sources for Arab national income," Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said upon opening a three-day meeting by the Federation of Arab Tourist Offices in Amman.

Jordan, he said, calls on all tourist and travel offices in the Arab countries to act for complementing each other's work and help form such a strategy that would benefit the Arab World as a whole.

The opening session was addressed also by the secretary-general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim who

said that joint efforts in the tourism industry can help alleviate many of the Arab countries' current economic difficulties.

According to Yasser Abdul Saoud, the federation chairman, delegates from eight Arab countries and organisations will discuss amendments to the federation's statutes, conduct an assessment of the federation's programmes, activities and training of personnel employed in the tourism industry.

Abdul Saoud said the delegates will decide on seminars and exhibitions designed to market the Arab World's tourist attractions and will discuss investments in the tourism sector.

Delegates attending the meetings came from North Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Sudan, Tunisia, Syria and Jordan as well as representatives of the CAEU, the Arab Air Carriers Organisation and the Arab Hotel Federation.

RJ council meets, reviews airline policy

AMMAN (Petra) — An advisory council to the Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, opened a two-day meeting here Saturday to review the airline's development in air transport and services.

The meeting will review matters related to tourism, cooperation with Jordan's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), maintenance of aircraft and training programmes.

Addressing the opening session was RJ's chairman, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, who said that RJ had been gearing its programmes over the past two years to adjust to the economic crisis that faced the Kingdom and to contribute to the implementation of the economic restructuring programme.

"Apart from aiming to make profits, the national airline is also intent on employing its services to attract tourists and to build a bridge between Jordan and the

outside world," Abu Hassan said. He said RJ planes will continue to help Jordan export its products and boost the country's tourism industry.

Another speaker at the meeting was RJ's Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh who referred to the airline's new strategy which required restructuring of financial conditions and reorganisation of financing operations.

"The new strategy is being adopted vis-a-vis the emergence of a united Europe in 1992, and the prospect of closer cooperation in air transport with neighbouring Arab states," Abu Ghazaleh said.

The council, whose honorary chairman is His Majesty King Hussein, comprises prominent personalities from Jordan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Austria, Sweden, Brazil and Lebanon.

Soviet envoy assails Israel's settlement, inhuman policies

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior Soviet diplomat revealed here Saturday that his country was now studying a request by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to allow Soviet Jewish emigrants to retain their Soviet passport upon leaving the Soviet Union so that they can return any time in the future.

"The Soviet praesidium is currently considering this request and looking into the possibility so that all emigrants from the USSR, including Jews, can return to the Soviet Union," according to Igor Andropov, roving Soviet ambassador who arrived in Jordan Friday on a two-day visit and talks with Jordanian officials.

Andropov also revealed that the Soviet government and the PLO have both contacted Jewish communities in the USSR to warn against the grave consequences resulting from settling in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, and to make it clear that settlement is a flagrant violation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and was an infringement

ment of international laws. AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Ministry's Secretary-General Abdul Majid Qasem is to be seconded for one year to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) where he is to serve as the fund's financial advisor on financing Arab trade, according to informed officials at the Ministry of Finance.

Qasem, whose mandate begins June 1, 1990, has been serving in his present post since the early 1980s; he also filled other important positions and represented Jordan at various meetings of the International Monetary Fund, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Islamic Development Bank.

In 1989 the AMF established a special programme to finance Arab countries' trade with other nations with a view to promoting Arab economies.

The programme started off with a \$500 million but, according to informed officials, the capital will increase to \$100 million annually. According to the officials, the Cabinet has approved the secondment.

Qasem to join AMF

Andropov condemned Israel's policy of settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands as a flagrant violation of all international laws and a violation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in their homeland.

He called on the international community to stand by the Arab countries' endeavours to prevent

the immigrants from settling in Arab lands.

Andropov also denounced the inhuman Israeli practices against the Arab population of Palestine and called on the international community to intervene and put an end to Israel's atrocities against the defenceless citizens.

According to Andropov, his current tour, which also includes Syria, Egypt and Morocco, was part of a drive to prepare for a European security and cooperation conference on the Mediterranean zone which is due to be held in September. He said the conference, which will be held in Spain, is expected to be attended by 35 Arab and European countries to discuss cooperation in economic, security and political fields.



Conference on nursing deals with aspects of profession

IRBID (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday opened a two-day conference on the image of nursing in the Arab World by calling for the creation of incentives to encourage male and female youths to join the nursing profession.

"We are called on to respond to the challenge of the modern age by making good use of modern science and technology and providing care for the society," the Queen said in a key note address at the opening session of the conference held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) near here.

"Nursing is healing for the patients, it is hope and comfort and it is after all a mission which we have inherited from our Islamic

society," the Queen said. "Since the early dawn of Islam, the nursing profession has been deeply respected by the Arab and Islamic societies, but the image of nursing was marred in the modern age, prompting many young men and women to shun this humanitarian and noble profession," the Queen added.

In the last two decades, the Queen said, the Arab World witnessed a major development of the nursing profession and medical care services.

"For its part, Jordan's specialists have succeeded in carrying out major surgical operations and realised numerous achievements which could not otherwise have been possible without employ-

ment of modern and advanced technology," the Queen said. At the outset of the meeting JUST President Kamel Ajlouni said that 40 working papers to be reviewed by the delegates tackle various aspects of the nursing profession, its development and the image of nursing in the Arab society.

According to the organisers, the first Middle East conference on facets of nursing said that nearly 200 delegates from Jordan and 10 Arab and foreign countries would examine historical, cross-cultural perspectives and current popular images of nursing and would explore the role of the mass media in shaping the image of nursing as well as the recruitment of nurses.

UNRWA has no plans to reduce services in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has no intention of reducing the level of its services to the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, neither does it intend to cancel any of its programmes, the agency's Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli announced here Saturday.

"UNRWA, in fact, seeks to improve the quality of its educational and health services," the commissioner-general said at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Giacomelli thanked the Jordanian government for its continued cooperation with UNRWA, especially for its consistent endeavours to help the agency overcome its budget deficits and to ensure continued services to the refugees.

He reviewed with Qasem the difficulties the agency encountered in raising funds to finance its operations and mentioned the obstacles the agency strives to overcome and the hardships its staff are facing in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israeli occupation authorities' practices that impede UNRWA's operations and its relief work to the refugees of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

For his part, Qasem voiced the Jordanian government's sympathy with UNRWA in the face of the numerous difficulties, and underlined the important humanitarian role the agency is playing. "UNRWA should strive to maintain its urgent services to the refugees until a just and durable solution has been found for the Palestine problem to end the ordeal of the refugees, Qasem said.

Man shoots family

ZARQA (J.T.) — A man from Zarqa identified by police as 35 year old B.A.F. killed his 23 year-old wife and four other members of the family following a heated debate, according to reports in the local press Saturday.

The man was said to have fired point blank at his wife after a quarrel and then turned his gun towards her 18-year-old brother,

his mother-in-law and his two children.

All sustained wounds and are treated in hospital. The report said that police apprehended the man and are holding investigations.

Another report said that a housewife set fire to her own house in Zarqa following a heated dispute with her husband. Names were withheld by police

who rushed fire engines to the scene and are still holding investigations.

Another report said a man killed his own son who was always causing trouble to the family.

The report said the man used a revolver to shoot his 20-year-old son in Um Al Summaq district; the crime occurred near the market place.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

King congratulates Haitian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to the Haitian president in which he congratulated her in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on her assumption of office as president. The King wished her good luck in leading the country to a prosperous future.

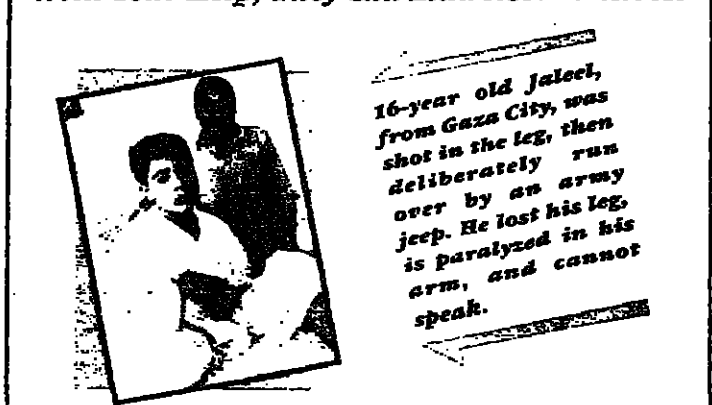
Queen to visit U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will leave Amman Sunday on a working visit to the U.S. upon the invitation of several universities to attend their commencement exercises, during which she will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters and another doctorate of laws.

Former deputy dies

AMMAN (Petra) — Former member of the Lower House of Parliament Aati Abdul Izz died Friday and was buried in his hometown of Aqaba. Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who attended the funeral, conveyed Prime Minister Mudar Badran's condolences to the bereaved family.

Intifada Victims: With Your Help, They Can Lead Normal Lives!



After two years of the Intifada, over 825 Palestinians have been killed by army troops and settlers in the Occupied Territories. Often overlooked, however, are the 80,000 people who have been shot, beaten and tortured, BUT HAVE SURVIVED.

These people, many of them children, urgently need medical rehabilitation. If not treated promptly, many of them will become permanently handicapped.

UFA is working with local medical organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to provide essential services for Intifada victims. With your support, many of these victims may again live normal lives.

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UFA is a non-profit, non-political, independent, tax-exempt American charity based in Washington, D.C. Established in 1978, UFA is dedicated to alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people wherever they are, particularly those living in the occupied territories.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

Panel discusses crime, ways of combatting it

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day meeting of heads of departments responsible for combatting criminal activities in the Arab World ended here Saturday and the recommendations are to be submitted to the Arab chiefs of police departments at a meeting in Tunis by the middle of September.

The three-day meeting tackled criminal evidence revealed in laboratories, like forgery, as well as methods of conducting criminal investigations and the use of

video tapes and cameras to gather evidence in criminal investigation, according to Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi head of the Amman-based Arab Bureau for Narcotics.

Qaisi said the meeting was called for by the Arab ministers of interior who would meet in Bahrain in December to review the resolutions and recommendations of the Arab police chiefs.

A total of 16 Arab countries took part in the meeting and discussed ways of combatting

drug trafficking. "They reviewed the implementation of earlier resolutions taken by Arab ministers of interior at a Tunis meeting in 1988," Qaisi said.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali told the meeting at the opening session that the Arab World is in need of a comprehensive strategy to deal with the increasing crime rate in the Arab World. He said the security of the Arab World is an integrated one and therefore efforts should be pooled together.

'Peace march' postponed

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An "Amman-to-Jerusalem" peace march has been postponed until late November with a view to "consolidating international participation and ensuring the complete success" of the event, the organisers announced Saturday.

"The concept and our objectives for the peace march remain the same, and we hope to gather additional international solidarity with the event by November," said a spokesman for the organisers, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and a national organising committee.

The spokesman rejected suggestion that "political considerations" were behind the decision to postpone the march, originally scheduled to be held June 1-3. "Quite simply, there is only one factor that prompted us to postpone the event," he said. "It is realisation of the limitations of time imposed on us in the context of international participation," he said. "We already have a very good list of renowned celebrities and screen personalities who have indicated their participation in the march but we felt it is not enough. Many others are asking for longer advance notice."

The new date for the march, the spokesman said, will be Nov. 29, on the eve of the United Nations-declared International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. He said nothing else was changed in the "basic framework or expected numerical strength of the march." According to earlier statements by the organisers, 30,000 to 50,000 people were expected to take part.

The postponement was announced two days before a scheduled march organised by professional associations in cooperation with a number of other local and Arab professional organisations. The march has "the right to return" of the Palestinians as its central theme. The march will mark the conclusion of a three-day conference of Arab professional unions and associations which began in Amman Satur-

day. Office-bearers of the Palestine Peace March said the ADC or the national organising committee had no differences of opinion with the unions or other groups, which have in the past raised opposition to the June 1-3 event. "It is true that there were some misunderstandings as a result of what appears to have been a concerted misinformation campaign over the goals and objectives of the march," one official said. "However, we have managed to set the record straight and clear the atmosphere of misunderstandings."

The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, blamed what he described as "Israeli-orchestrated" plans for the "misunderstandings." Sources said the Muslim Brotherhood and several other fundamentalist organisations were upset over reports that the Amman-to-Jerusalem marchers would be carrying the star of David and the Israeli flag. However, the official said, "hoisting the star of David or the Israeli flag was never part of our plans. Most definitely, it was a deliberate campaign aimed at inciting popular sentiments in Jordan and raising doubts about the motivations of the organisers of the march."

The spokesman for the organisers meanwhile reaffirmed that the objectives of the peace march were:

- Leading support for the Intifada of the Palestinian people and their quest to end the Israeli occupation and realise their inalienable rights for self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil;
- Demanding the immediate initiation of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;
- Mobilising international public opinion in support for peace efforts aiming for the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement which guarantees the national rights of the Palestinian people;
- Ensuring the realisation of a just and honourable peace.

The Israeli army's chief of staff, Dan Shomron, said late last month that the occupation authorities would not allow the Palestine Peace March to cross the river Jordan and would not permit a parallel march of Palestinians and Israeli peace activists to the bridge to join the rally from Amman.

A few days later, a firebomb was hurled at the entrance of the building which houses the offices of the Palestine Peace March. The firebomb did not cause any damage. A shadowy underground group, citing dissatisfaction with the march, claimed responsibility for the attack telephone calls to Western news agencies, reaffirming political observers' interpretation that the opposition to the march was a reflection of differences in the fundamental moderate and hardline approaches to peace with Israel.

However, the organisers of the peace march argued that they were not even sure whether the attack was aimed at them, and pointed out that "only Israel could be the beneficiary" by undermining the "expression of the Arab and international will and desire for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the legitimate human and political rights of the Palestinian people."

The announcement of the postponement of the march was made after three days of intense deliberations involving the ADC, the national organising committee, and leading Jordanian and Palestinian personalities, according to informed sources. The sources said that ADC Chairman James Abourezk, a former member of the American Senate, and ADC President Abdeen Jabara had flown in from Washington, D.C., to join the discussions.

Some volunteers working for the march expressed regret over the postponement since "preparations were at an advanced state." However, said one, "We are looking forward to an event in November which will be much larger in scope and will have almost unanimous international support."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shomran Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Plastic art exhibition by Abir Abu Judeh, Samia Al Bawli and Hadia Basmah at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of paintings depicting national heritage, nature and the Arab woman by Laila Al Shawwa at Jordan National Gallery

For Fine Arts.

- Exhibition of original aerial photos by Jane Taylor at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).
- Book exhibition at Ma'ta University.
- Art exhibition by George Sarkis Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute.
- Art exhibition by Ilham Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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If there is a will there is a way

THE CALL by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for a face-to-face meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, is the most clear manifestation yet of Iraq's quest for a just and comprehensive peace with Iran after eight years of war and almost two years of a no-war-no-peace situation. No doubt, the Iraqi proposal also represents the will and desire of the Arab World at large not only for good neighbourly relations between the two countries but also for a united Arab-Islamic stand to confront the challenges and dangers inherent in the onslaughts mounted by Israel and foreign powers against the interests of Arabs and Muslims.

For one thing, it should be very clear to the Iranians that any renewed pursuit of military means to resolve their conflict with Iraq would simply be fruitless except in incurring further untold losses on both sides. They would be wiser to accept the reality that the price to pay in any renewed hostility will be very high indeed. The truth also states the Iranians in the face: Keeping the Iraqis engaged on their eastern flank will only encourage further Israeli aggression from the west, the dangers of which will not be limited to the Arabs.

While it is not clear how the Iranian leadership, with its varying components of moderation and hardline, views the Iraqi proposal, there are positive indications that at least some elements in the Tehran hierarchy favour the concept of direct talks between the two leaders. However, very studiously appeared to have been overlooked by the Iranians is the very basic rule that if there is a will there is a way. Quite simply, if both sides are genuinely interested in arriving at a peace settlement that is fair and just to all parties concerned and which can restore the much-yearned for peace in the eastern flank of the Arab World, then there should not be any procedural wrangles over how to go about arriving at a fundamental formula to govern Iraqi-Iranian relations. True enough, the wounds inflicted on both sides in the eight years of bloody war are indeed deep and would take time to heal, but an awareness of the pressing need for peace in the region should be allowed to supersede all other considerations.

What gives us reason to hope for renewed, realistic peace talks between Iran and Iraq is of course the new Soviet initiative to revive its offer to mediate the dispute. No doubt, the fact that the Soviet leadership under Mikhail Gorbachev, preoccupied as it is with internal problems, found it fit to retable its offer to host an Iraqi-Iranian meeting in Moscow at this point in time reflects the Kremlin's understanding of the existing windows for peace between the two Gulf neighbours. We sincerely hope that the spirit of understanding will prevail on both sides and eventually lead to a situation where a united Arab-Islamic strategy would emerge and challenge Western and Israeli designs and plots in the Middle East.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

IT is difficult for the Arab masses to understand the objection on the part of certain Arab circles convening an Arab summit in Baghdad and it is hard to see why certain Arab states refrain from attending such an important gathering of heads of state, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said Iraq had never failed to come to the aid of any Arab country in the face of an external threat and, therefore this Arab country which has been exposed to hostile campaigns from Israel and the West, and is still facing the prospect of aggression, deserves total support from all Arabs, at least in the form of agreeing to meet in Baghdad as a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people. Nobody denies that Damascus has had its role in pan-Arab struggle in the face of Israel and its allies; but it is hard for Arab masses to see Damascus refusing a chance to rally the Arabs and to unite their efforts against the common enemy, the paper continued. The past differences between Baghdad and Damascus are looked on by the Arab masses as a passing cloud that should never darken the pan-Arab atmosphere at this critical moment, said the paper.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily strongly criticises the Arab media including the information services in Jordan for propagating what he describes Washington's lies and false statements. Tareq Masarweh says that Arab media have been relaying United States administration statements claiming that Washington opposes Israel's settlement of Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab lands and opposes Israel's seizure of the Christian buildings in the holy city of Jerusalem. The Arab media should realise after all these years of experience, that Israel and the United States are one united enemy of the Arab World; and that, thanks to a U.S.-Soviet agreement concluded in 1983, Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union are flooding the occupied Arab territories, the writer notes. It is American money and American weapons and American economic assistance over the past four decades that allowed the Jewish state to maintain its occupation of Arab land and absorb further immigrants. Masarweh continues. All that Washington says and is being propagated by the Arab media is lies that are being peddled in the Arab World for the sake of cooling the rage of the Arab people over the U.S.-Israeli conspiracies, says the writer.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Saturday echoes King Hussein's statements published in a Bahraini newspaper in which he emphasises the need for convening the Arab summit in Baghdad. The paper refers to the Jewish immigration into Palestine and Israel's continued inhuman practices against the Arab people of Palestine as the main reasons for the Arabs to meet as the King pointed out in his statements.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan, IMF agree on new letter of intent

By Dr. Fahed Faweh

LAST month, representatives of the IMF and the Jordanian government reached an agreement on a draft of a new letter of intent that sets forth the main lines of the economic and financial policies that the government will follow in 1990 and 1991. The agreed course of action and the conclusion of the letter will enable Jordan to utilise another tranche of the IMF and World Bank loan, amounting to around \$45 million, and will pave the way for the rescheduling of Jordan's debts including interest which will fall due during the coming 20 months through London Club.

The IMF showed a degree of flexibility due to the impressive performance in the first year

under the economic adjustment programme which was adopted in April 1989.

The IMF evaluation of Jordan's economic performance revealed that the deficit in the budget was reduced, the balance of payments improved, the reserves of the Central Bank grew, the national exports increased, foreign imports decreased, and the exchange rate of the dinar stabilised. In fact the actual performance was even better than the projections in all the above areas. The main objectives that were not fully achieved were: the volume of remittance from Jordanian expatriates which did not exceed two thirds of the target, the inflation rate which exceeded expectations,

unemployment which remained high, and new investments which were too slow.

The contents of the new letter of intent were not made public yet. It is understood, however, that the council of ministers approved it at the joint recommendation of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank. The minister of finance has been authorised to issue and sign the letter. The IMF board of directors is expected to look into the letter shortly, but its approval is taken for granted.

The letter of intent also aims at a further reduction in the deficit of the budget, and in the current account, the lowering of inflation rate to 10 per cent in 1990 and to 7 per cent in

1991 against 26 per cent in 1989, stricter monetary policy to counter inflation, maintain and protect the exchange rate of the dinar, and reduce aggregate demand on consumption. The letter expects the gross domestic product to grow in 1990 at 2.5 per cent in real terms, which is still lower than the natural population growth of 3.8 per cent; thus the per capita income and consequently the standard of living, will continue to fall for the coming eight years.

Two measures in the new letter of intent stand out: First, the reform of custom duty and second the phasing out of subsidies. Imports will be charged a minimum of 5 per cent and a maximum of 60 per cent, down

to a 50 per cent ceiling at a later stage. The government can make up for the reduced import duty by imposing a consumption tax which, unlike import duty, will be applicable to domestic production as well as foreign imports.

Jordanian industry will have to survive under a protection not exceeding 60 per cent, which is intended to make industry more efficient. The consumption subsidies were found to cost around JD 110 million a year, way above the JD 60 million allocated in the budget of 1990. This threatens to frustrate the economic adjustment, over and above the distortion resulting from waste, over-consumption and smuggling the

subsidised items abroad.

IMF representatives showed understanding of the government view concerning the difficulty of abolishing subsidies on basic commodities and agricultural input. They apparently accepted the principle of reducing these subsidies gradually over several years, provided they are targeted towards low income groups and not across-the-board. The government is expected to follow a flexible approach to pricing currently subsidised commodities such as sugar, and may use a sort of rationing system to avoid waste and smuggling, and to exclude tourists, guest workers, restaurants, hotels etc. Such a measure will slash the cost of subsidies in half.

Arab renaissance depends on 'the learned'; foreign powers tried to abort nation's awakening

The following is the full text of the address by His Majesty King Hussein at the opening Saturday of "The Conference on Education for the Arab Nation in the Twenty-First Century," organised by the Arab Thought Forum. The King's address was delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

In the Name of God, Most Benevolent, Most Merciful

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I WELCOME you to Jordan, and to this conference where you will be deliberating one of the most important concerns of our countries and nation, namely education for the Arab Nation in the twenty-first century.

Our future, both as countries and as a nation, in the coming millennium will be determined by the "quantity" and "quality" of what we know. The holy Koran begins with the injunction to "Recite in the name of thy Lord who created everything. He created man from a clot of blood. Recite for thy Lord is most beneficent, who has taught by the pen, taught man that which he knew not."

It is this divine inspiration to the nation's prophet, Mohammad, which united us fourteen hundred years ago and through which we, as a nation, attained power and greatness. The holy command to the Prophet Mohammad to "recite" was the commencement of one of the greatest movements in human history. Ever since, our nation has maintained its glory as it clinched to reason and learning, only to falter when it abandoned the quest for knowledge and science.

Our modern renaissance, which began in the middle of the last century, came about through the rediscovery of the importance of reason and scientific research, starting with the pioneers of this renaissance, such as Rifa'a Al Tahtawi, Ali Mubarak and Khayer Al Deen Al Tunisi, and subsequently by the succeeding generation which included Jamal Al Deen Al Afghani, Mohammad Abdu, Shibli Shmayel, Al Shidyaaq, Ibn Badaee, Al Thalibi, Ahmed Lutfi and Taha Husayn. The first direct, collective call for Arab unity came from Arab students who were studying modern sciences in Europe, at the first Arab congress which they held in Paris in 1913. It was not a mere coincidence that most of those students were to return to their homeland and quickly assemble around Sharif Hussein to form the vanguard of the Great Arab Revolt of 1916. All the national movements that followed, beginning with the 1919 revolt in Egypt and including the ongoing courageous Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories, have been led by Arabs nurtured on modern science.

However, during the last two centuries, those bright spots in our modern renaissance remained inchoate, fragmented and dispersed. They lacked continuity and cumulativeness, the two necessary requisites for such a renaissance to emerge and bear fruit.

Covetous foreign powers were determined to exploit the location and resources of our land and take unfair advantage of our peoples' labour and markets to the verge of enslaving them. Naturally such powers could not have succeeded in the past and would not succeed in the future unless we were to remain weak and deprived of the power of knowledge and science. Hence the first targets of the covetous foreign quarters were the centres

of science and the nuclei of revival in our countries, starting with Egypt in 1840 and ending with Iraq in 1990, passing through numerous other abortive attempts made at the slightest hint of resurgence in any of our countries. Whenever a notable Arab accomplishment was made, these same covetous foreign powers would rally to circumvent it and contain its results in preparation for aborting it.

Let us recall together quickly what happened in the aftermath of the October 1973 victory to which we all looked as a harbinger of a fresh start for the Arab march towards a just peace and comprehensive development. At that time, our human and other material capabilities would have provided us with the necessary requirements for such peace and development. Instead, the Arab World was to witness a decade and a half of fragmentation and intra and inter regional wars of attrition; in Lebanon, Sudan, the Gulf and the Western Sahara, while financial resources were squandered and huge debts accumulated by certain Arab states. Thus an historic opportunity in the life of nations and peoples was lost. Concomitantly, we reached a stage, in the middle of the 1980s, where hostile forces would publicly state their erstwhile, secret plans to divide this or that Arab country and/or annex and swallow this or that part of it.

However, the Arab Nation's will to live and survive reasserted itself during the last years of this decade: The Arab summit conference of accord and concordance was convened in Amman in November 1987; the heroic Palestinian intifada erupted and is still continuing since December 1987; Iraq's victory, in the summer of 1988, in its just war in defence of its national soil and our Arab homeland; the proclamation, towards the end of the same year, of the state of Palestine; the creation of two councils for regional cooperation in the beginning of the year 1989 — the Arab Cooperation Council and the Maghrib Cooperation Council; the serious moves towards the unification of the two parts of Yemen; the moves towards increased democratisation in Algeria, Jordan and Tunisia; and the prospects of solving the Lebanese crisis with the conclusion of the Taif accord late in 1989. In brief, the nation has witnessed a new Arab awakening whose idioms and evolution have been unfolding in a startling and continuous manner, at a time when enormous, dramatic developments were taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, ushering in a new era of international détente.

As has been the case since 1840, the covetous foreign powers were disturbed by the new Arab awakening. Immediately they began hatching schemes to circumvent, contain and eventually abort this awakening. They started directing consecutive and precipitous strikes, the most dangerous and discernible of which are:

— The scheme to effect immigration into Palestine of Soviet Jews in unprecedented large numbers in order to devour what remained of Palestinian territory and uproot and expel the remain-

ing Palestinians.

— The threat of conflicts arising over the waters of Arab rivers whose sources originate outside the borders of Arab countries.

— Ceaseless attempts to sabotage nascent scientific and technological facilities in Arab countries such as Iraq and Libya.

— Feverish campaigns to incite world public opinion, particularly in the West, against Arab leaders and Arab countries as well as the whipping up of the most sordid racial prejudices against Arabs and Muslims; all as a prelude to increased subversion and flagrant aggression against certain Arab countries.

"During the period 1950 to 1990, the number of registered students across the various levels of education leaped from five to fifty million, the number of universities from eight to eighty. Nonetheless, in reality education is still inefficient and insufficient; illiteracy still pervades half the population in the Arab countries and two thirds of the female population."

— Unremitting efforts to undermine the Taif accord in order to perpetuate civil strife in Lebanon.

— Economic pressures on indebted Arab countries and the setting of impossible conditions, the acceptance of which would mean both increased dependency and the alienation of governments from the people, and the rejection of which would lead to economic strain and starvation.

— Ceaseless endeavours to sow the seeds of mistrust and doubt among Arab countries and groups and to abort their efforts towards reconciliation, concord and cooperation.

In the coming months and

years we are to expect more of these onslaughts aimed at undoing that which we have achieved over the past three years in the way of understanding, cooperation and solidarity.

On the internal level, we must realise the changing realities of our time and prepare ourselves to adapt and play an effective role in their evolution.

The most important developments of the last decade of this century and the early decades of the next are three interrelated and interconnected revolutions:

— The advanced scientific and technological revolution.

— The democratic revolution.

— The revolution of giant economic groupings.

All of these organically interrelated revolutions have one common denominator; knowledge and science. The world of the future and the future of the world will be determined by "the learned." Only they will grow and prosper, while "those who do not know" will lag behind and suffer. That is the lesson the two superpowers learned in the mid-1980's. The report of the American presidential commission "A Nation in Jeopardy" alerted the nation to the grave consequences of laxity in the development of education for the American nation. Similarly, the new thinking

in the Soviet Union under the banner of "perestroika" was no less than an endeavour to overcome the scientific and technological slump which had grave political, economic and social implications to Soviet society and the countries of Eastern Europe. World powers, old and modern, in the West or Asia, realised that the power of nations can no longer be measured by the size of territory, material resources, armies or arsenals but by the quality of human resources, levels of education and the percentage of creative and inventive individuals in their labour forces.

Unless we have to prepare our people to become productive, creative and involved citizens, we will have wasted God's most precious gift to man, that by which he was made unique and superior to all other creatures.

Distinguished participants,

The early nineties will be both critical and decisive years for our nation, which must be enabled to pursue its new grand awakening that began in the late eighties, and attain the elements of its power and solidarity, to stand firm in the face of challenges.

Thus educating the Arab Nation is one of the most important challenges of the nineties and the twenty-first century; the future of the nation is dependent on the education of the future, which must embrace ten objectives without which education will remain incomplete, ineffective and distorted. These objectives are:

1. Complementary development of the body, mind and soul.
2. Nurturing belief in God, his prophets and spiritual and human values.

3. Fostering the exaltation of Arabism, nationhood and the homeland.

4. Instilling the ethics of work, productivity and professionalism.

5. Preparing the individual for the future, equipping him with flexibility and adaptability.

6. Preparing individuals capable of moulding the future by nurturing and developing creativity and the ability to plan and organise.

7. Developing citizens able to comprehend and exercise their rights and duties, and capable of effective social, civic and political participation.

8. Training the willing and able towards bridging and surmounting the technological gap.

9. Developing rational, critical and systematic thinking as a way of life towards an individual and collective approach to dealing with the environment, society and the world.

You will have noted that these are qualitative, not quantitative, objectives. In spite of the fact that illiteracy is still high in some of our countries, the Arab World as a whole has made good strides towards achieving quantitative educational objectives. During the period 1950 to 1990, the number of registered students across the various levels of education leaped from five to fifty million, the number of universities from eight to eighty. In international standards, this quantitative growth is quite impressive.

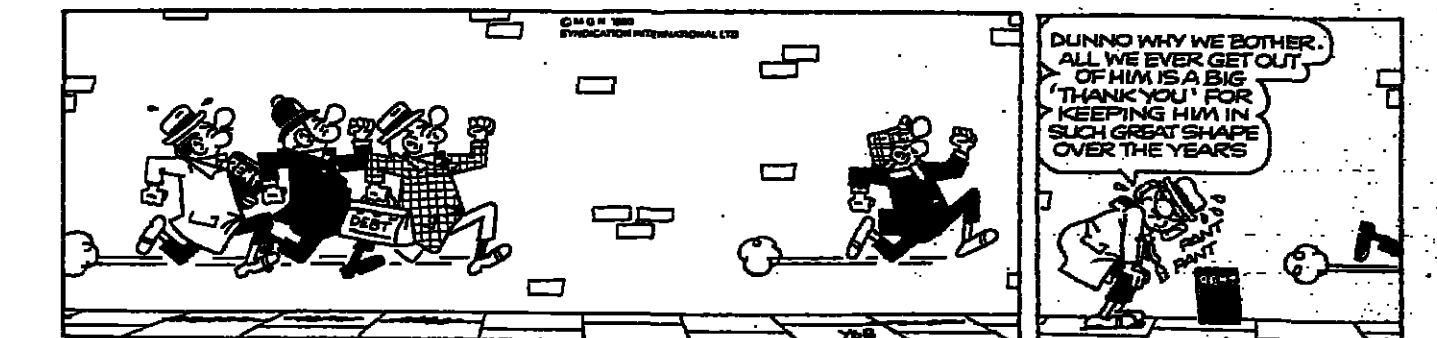
Nevertheless, in reality education is still inefficient and insufficient, whether it be in the Arab World as a whole or in each individual country, for even in quantitative terms, illiteracy still pervades half the population in

(Continued on page 7)

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Encore... la Palestine

Certains, c'est le hasard qui a groupé cette semaine deux événements jordanais-palestiniens assez significatifs. Vendredi dernier, à en lieu un grand meeting à Kafar Soum, près d'Irbid, pour commémorer le 70ème anniversaire de la disparition du premier héros jordanien, mort pour la Palestine. C'est la première fois, à ma connaissance, qu'est célébré cet anniversaire.

Le choix en lui-même est chargé de significations. Les Jordaniens se posent en ce moment beaucoup de questions. Ils se cherchent et, pour cela, certains sont en train de reconstituer l'histoire du pays et de réhabiliter ses pionniers. Pour les peuples, l'histoire constitue parfois un point de référence et une source de sagesse.

En avril-mai 1920, l'élite jordanienne ainsi qu'une bonne partie de la population ont ressenti le "danger sioniste". Ils ont tenu une réunion à Quom, au nord de la Transjordanie, et ont décidé de lancer une attaque contre les implantations sionistes de Bissan. Lorsque la pression d'une centaine de Jordaniens est devenue forte sur les colons juifs, l'aviation britannique, inédite à l'époque dans la région, est intervenue, poursuivant les combattants jordaniens. Une dizaine d'entre eux ont trouvé la mort, dont un chef local, Cheikh Kayed Mufleh Obeidat, du village de Kafar Soum.

Pour les organisateurs de la commémoration d'avant-hier, et, au-delà, pour une partie des Jordaniens, K. M. Obeidat reste à la fois le symbole et l'exemple à suivre au moment où l'on parle beaucoup du soutien à l'Intifada en Palestine. C'est aussi une réponse à la politique officielle arabe, caractérisée par l'immobilisme, face à ce qu'elle appelle elle-même les "dangers grandissants", qui résultent de l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques vers Israël et la Palestine occupée.

Une autre réponse, populaire et plus grande, sera donnée demain lundi. En effet, une grande marche vers le pont Al-Husseini, qui enjambe le Jourdain, va se dérouler, avec la participation escomptée de dizaines de milliers d'Arabes. Son objectif: appuyer le droit au retour des Palestiniens, exprimer le soutien à l'Intifada et appeler à résister à l'immigration des juifs des pays de l'Est, dès lors qu'elle se fait dans les territoires occupés. Cette marche coïncide avec la date anniversaire de la création de l'Etat d'Israël et du retrait des troupes britanniques de Palestine.

Encore et toujours la Palestine. Il apparaît de plus en plus évident que l'ensemble des initiatives, des plans et des projets politiques, proposés tant par les pays arabes que par les forces d'opposition, ne s'élèvent pas à la hauteur des défis lancés par les Israéliens depuis au moins deux décennies.

Même les concessions faites par l'OLP n'ont pas réussi à faire fléchir l'intransigeance israélienne. Cette dernière semble d'ailleurs ne devoir que se renforcer avec les derniers événements survenus en Europe de l'Est.

C'est pourquoi les nations arabes, notamment les pays qui connaissent un début de démocratisation, tendent de plus en plus vers le rapport de force. L'Intifada en Palestine et la puissance militaire de l'Irak sont porteurs d'espoir pour une grande partie des populations arabes. Il ne s'agit plus seulement, à les entendre, de récupérer des droits nationaux ou encore d'effacer les humiliations accumulées au cours des années mais aussi de se défendre.

L'équation fondamentale est simple: on ne parviendra jamais à contenir l'expansionnisme israélien ni à repousser une éventuelle agression, si l'on ne dispose pas de la force, sous toutes ses formes. La semaine dernière, la commission "idéologique" du Parti travailliste israélien a appelé à "l'octroi de l'indépendance aux Palestiniens de Cisjordanie et de Gaza". Parallèlement, le maire de Bethléem, pourtant connu pour ses positions modérées, a déclaré que "l'Intifada se poursuivra, même sans soutien arabe".

C'est dire combien la population arabe de la région ressent le besoin de se voir restituer les droits dont elle est frustrée. Le nombre des participants à la "Marche du Retour" de demain lundi nous indiquera partiellement l'ampleur de cette frustration.



Peintures et sculptures au centre des expositions de la Fondation Shoman.

A la rencontre de cinq jeunes artistes jordaniens

Mardi dernier s'est ouverte au centre des expositions de la Fondation Shoman une exposition consacrée à quatre peintres et à une sculptrice jordanienne.



G. Dahdaleh.

Ghada Dahdaleh. Diplômée en arts plastiques et en sculpture de l'Ecole Centrale des Beaux-Arts d'Amman (1986-1987); première exposition individuelle à la galerie Petra (Amman-1986); deuxième exposition en solo dans les mêmes lieux en 1988; nombreuses participations à des manifestations collectives en Jordanie et au Canada.

A la Fondation Shoman, Ghada Dahdaleh présente 27 dessins, exécutés à l'aide de matériaux variés sur carton. Ghada travaille selon un procédé mixte de gravure, complétée par le dessin à main levée, pour aboutir à un résultat chaque fois unique.

Nous sommes devant une œuvre de toute nouveauté, en comparaison avec la peinture pratiquée et connue en Jordanie. L'artiste nous attire vers son monde particulier par un rythme vigoureux, des lignes et des couleurs qui éveillent nos sensations et suscitent nos idées.

Chez elle, c'est le désir de constituer un fait pictural qui s'avère le plus important. Son œuvre se distingue par l'énergie que dégagent des couleurs ternes allées à des formes solides, vibrantes de dynamisme. Rectangles, carrés, arcs et diagonales: tels sont les traits d'expression de l'artiste. Mais jamais de formes définies.

Ce que dessine Ghada ressemble certes à des portes et des fenêtres, mais son intention n'est pas d'évoquer leurs formes. Il s'agit plutôt de susciter ce qu'elles enveloppent de secrets, de sensations et de significations. Elle ajoute ensuite des lignes diagonales, qui donnent une impulsion et un mouvement à ces portes et ces fenêtres. Pour terminer, elle entoure l'ensemble d'un cadre le plus souvent orné, qui préserve toutes les forces au cœur de ses tableaux.

C'est pourquoi, nous sommes attirés par un "foyer" central. Un foyer, que la composition installe souvent au milieu du dessin. L'artiste nous ouvre ainsi une fenêtre sur un ensemble harmonieux d'événements, suscitant en nous des "vues" intérieures étonnantes.

Il n'est guère aisé d'englober toute l'œuvre de Ghada Dahdaleh. Cet essai en est tout cas prometteur et mérite le regard.

Larissa Najjar. Licence en esthétique de la faculté de philosophie de

soviétique (*). De la figuration libre aux œuvres informelles, elle présente quelques une des tendances qui comptent aujourd'hui dans l'art jordanien.

tourner autour de ces belles sculptures.

Il faut noter que le travail de Larissa Najjar évolue très rapidement. Espérons qu'elle ne demeurera pas prisonnière de la pierre qu'elle emploie aujourd'hui et qu'elle nous offrira dans le futur des œuvres nées dans d'autres matériaux.

Mohammad Samara. Etudes d'art à l'Institut de Beaux-Arts d'Amman; diplômé de l'Institut d'Amman pour l'enseignement artistique; expositions individuelles dans les locaux de l'Union des écrivains jordaniens, au RCC, au centre de la Housing Bank et à la galerie Alia; nombreuses participations à des manifestations collectives.



Mohammad Samara.

Dans cette exposition, Mohammad Samara présente une trentaine de dessins et de collages, exécutés sur carton. Cet artiste ne cesse d'évoluer. Ici, il nous propose le fruit d'une technique nouvelle, qui, malheureusement,

mad Samara est encore, dans cette nouvelle expérience, sur le chemin qui devrait le mener aux résultats qu'il recherche.

Adnan Yahya. Etudes artistiques à l'Institut de Beaux-Arts d'Amman; six expositions personnelles; participations à des manifestations collectives dans plusieurs pays, dont l'Egypte, la Chine et l'Espagne.

Adnan Yahya participe à cette exposition avec une vingtaine de dessins à la peinture à l'eau sur carton. L'intention avouée de l'artiste est de présenter l'Intifada, le soulèvement des Palestiniens dans les territoires occupés. Son travail s'en trouve plus



proche de l'illustration que de la peinture. Il confine même, pour être encore plus précis, à l'art des affiches de cinéma.

Cependant, même dans ce cadre, Adnan Yahya a chargé ses œuvres de trop de signes, oubliant la composition et les couleurs. L'importance première qu'il semble accorder à l'aspect "littéraire" de ses dessins, attachement sincère au démontant, est sans nul doute à



Adnan Yahya.

(suite page 6)

EN BREF

Coup de feu. Un porte-parole du palais royal jordanien a confirmé mercredi à Amman que la marine israélienne a ouvert le feu le 27 avril dernier dans le golfe d'Aqaba contre le yacht du roi Hussein. «Le roi se trouvait sur le pont lorsqu'il a repéré une vedette israélienne qui s'approchait et qui a tiré des roquettes d'un canon de 20 mm en sa direction, à une distance d'un demi-mille», a-t-il affirmé. Les Etats-Unis ont protesté contre l'incident le 4 mai auprès de l'Erat hébreu par l'intermédiaire du porte-parole du département d'Etat, qui a exprimé à Tel Aviv «la profonde inquiétude» de Washington. Les responsables de Tsahal ont affirmé dimanche qu'il s'agissait de «tirs d'essai (...) en aucune façon dirigés contre le yacht du souverain hachémite». Le commandement de la marine israélienne a cependant interdit à ces vedettes de procéder désormais à des exercices de tirs au passage de bateaux dans le golfe.

Oléoduc. Un accord, récemment signé entre le royaume hachémite et Bagdad, prévoit l'acheminement par oléoduc du pétrole irakien en Jordanie, a-t-on appris cette semaine à Amman. Le coût de la liaison a été estimé à 2 millions de dollars. Elle devrait permettre à la Jordanie, qui importe annuellement d'Irak 18 millions de barils de pétrole (soit 80% de ses besoins), d'économiser près de 50 millions de dollars de frais de transports par an.

Institut du Monde Arabe. En tournée dans la région, le président de l'Institut du Monde Arabe de Paris (IMA), Edgar Pisani, est attendu à Amman, en ce début de semaine. M. Pisani, qui s'est successivement rendu aux Emirats Arabes Unis, à Qatar, à Bahrein puis au Koweït, a entrepris des consultations avec les responsables des pays de la région sur les activités de l'IMA et les projets de coopération avec les pays arabes. Le président de l'Institut du Monde Arabe doit tenir une conférence de presse à Amman lundi soir.

Sommet extraordinaire. Dix-huit des 22 membres de la Ligue arabe (21 Etats et l'OLP) ont répondu favorablement à la proposition irakienne de réunir le sommet arabe extraordinaire souhaité par l'OLP le 28 mai à Bagdad. Le chef de la diplomatie irakienne, Tariq Aziz, a précisé jeudi que son pays a également proposé «une réunion préparatoire les 22 et 23 mai au niveau des ministres des Affaires étrangères, conformément au vœu de certains [pays] frères». Malgré les réticences de la Syrie quant au choix de Bagdad pour la convocation du sommet, le président égyptien Hosni Moubarak s'est dit sûr de cette date, jeudi à Mascate.

Pas concernée. L'OLP n'est pas concernée par les deux marches pour la paix organisées depuis Amman demain lundi et le 1er juin prochain en direction des territoires occupés. Le général Abdel Razzak al-Yahya, membre du Comité exécutif de la centrale palestinienne (CEOLP) a souligné le week-end dernier qu'il «n'existe aucun lien entre l'OLP [et les deux événements]», précisant que «les mesures concernant l'organisation et le financement de ces deux marches, ainsi que les préparatifs, ont été décidés sans la participation de l'OLP». Par ailleurs, Yasser Arafat ne devrait pas prendre part à la marche du 1er juin, contrairement à l'annonce récemment faite à Tunis.

Démenti. Le représentant de l'OLP à Amman, M. al-Tayeb Abdel Rahim, a démenti mardi l'information selon laquelle Yasser Arafat aurait décidé d'envoyer en Irak 2.500 combattants palestiniens basés en Jordanie afin de défendre ce pays «contre une possible attaque israélienne». M. Abdel Rahim, ambassadeur de Palestine en Jordanie, a affirmé que «cette nouvelle est dénuée de tout fondement».

A droite. Le premier ministre du gouvernement israélien de transition, Yitzhak Shamir, devrait présenter dans les jours qui viennent un cabinet dirigé par le Likoud (droite nationaliste) soutenu par l'extrême-droite, après de vaines tentatives pour former un nouveau gouvernement d'union nationale avec le Parti travailliste. M. Shamir dispose de moins d'une semaine pour mobiliser une majorité parlementaire, conformément au mandat de 21 jours que lui a confié le président Haim Herzog. Il dispose actuellement de l'appui de 61 députés sur 120, dont 7 appartiennent à des formations extrémistes et 14 aux partis religieux. Les travaillistes, pour leur part, sont entrés dans une crise ouverte entre leur leader, Shimon Peres, et le numéro deux du mouvement, Yitzhak Rabin, favorable à la démission du premier.

Achat. Iraqi Airways a décidé la semaine dernière d'acheter 5 avions de ligne Airbus A-310-300 au consortium européen. Le montant global de cette transaction s'élève à 500 millions de dollars. Les appareils, chacun d'une capacité de 250 passagers, doivent être livrés à l'Irak au début de 1992.

CEE-Iran. Une réunion de hauts fonctionnaires de la CEE et iraniens se tiendra la semaine prochaine à Dublin, avec pour objectif d'améliorer les relations entre les "Douze" et Téhéran. Y participeront des représentants de l'Irlande (actuelle présidente de la Communauté européenne), la France et l'Italie (présidente et prochaine présidentes). Convoqué à la demande de l'Iran, ce mini-sommet devrait permettre d'évoquer le sort des otages occidentaux au Liban ainsi que la condamnation à mort prononcée en février 1989 par l'ayatollah Khomeiny contre l'écrivain britannique Salman Rushdie.

France-apartheid. Les présidents français et sud-africain se sont entretenus pendant une heure jeudi à l'Elysée. François Mitterrand a affirmé à Frederik de Klerk que «la France ne demande qu'à accompagner l'évolution [en Afrique du Sud]», qu'elle souhaite aussi rapide que possible, vers une situation de droit. M. Mitterrand a par ailleurs indiqué avoir «pris note» du désir de son hôte de voir levées les sanctions économiques en vigueur contre son pays. Cette question, a-t-il ajouté, sera abordée par le sommet de la CEE prévu à Dublin les 25 et 26 juin. Le premier ministre français, Michel Rocard, qui s'est également entretenu jeudi avec M. de Klerk, lui a demandé «de démanteler l'apartheid et la levée de l'Etat d'urgence» en Afrique du Sud.

Libres. Les trois otages français, encore détenus après leur enlèvement le 27 avril dernier par des rebelles cabinais en territoire angolais, ont été libérés, a annoncé Paris jeudi. Le Front de libération de l'enclave du Cabinda avait intercepté 4 Français travaillant pour la compagnie Elf-Congo à la fin du mois dernier. L'un d'eux, Jean-Claude Soum, avait été libéré mardi au Zaïre.

Sécheresse. Prendre des douches à deux, ne passer que 30 secondes dessous: les conseils d'économie d'eau prodigués aux Français sont à la mesure de l'inquiétude des autorités devant la sécheresse qui sévit pratiquement sans discontinuer depuis juin 1989 dans le sud du pays et qui remonte peu à peu vers le nord. Actuellement, elle s'étend au sud d'une ligne Bordeaux-Grenoble, où les pluies ont été limitées à 25% des normales saisonnières au cours du dernier semestre. Selon les spécialistes français, les villes ne devraient pas souffrir de manque d'eau mais de sécheresses péniures pourraient rapidement affecter les zones rurales.

Cannes. Le 43ème festival international du film de Cannes (sud de la France) s'est ouvert jeudi soir avec la projection du dernier film d'Akira Kurosawa "Rêves", présenté hors compétition. Une centaine de vedettes du grand écran, dont Clint Eastwood, Lauren Bacal, Anthony Quinn, Annie Girardot, Monica Vitti et Lambert Wilson ont assisté à l'inauguration du festival, ainsi que les membres du jury officiel, présidé par le cinéaste italien Bernardo Bertolucci.

Equipe commune. Les ministres chargés des sports des deux Etats allemands se sont prononcés mardi en faveur de la participation d'équipes communes aux Jeux Olympiques de 1992. La décision finale appartient cependant aux comités olympiques d'Albertville (jeux d'hiver) et de Barcelone (jeux d'été) et non aux gouvernements. Les deux ministres allemands ont par ailleurs annoncé qu'ils soutiendraient ensemble la candidature de Berlin aux J.O. de l'an 2000.

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Un cimetière juif profané en France

Racisme: retour de la bête immonde

La France s'est réveillée jeudi dans un climat de racisme plus inquiétant que jamais. La profanation d'un cimetière juif de Carpentras (sud du pays) a provoqué le sursaut de l'ensemble de la classe politique, à l'exception de l'extrême-droite.

Un frisson d'horreur. Deux femmes, venues se recueillir sur les tombes de leurs parents disparus, ont découvert jeudi la profanation de trente quatre sépultures du cimetière juif de Carpentras, une cité historique du sud-est français. Combien de victimes, elles ont aussi été les premières à voir le cadavre d'un vieil homme de 81 ans, étalé sur une hampe de parapluie, gisant sur une tombe.

Quatre individus, selon la police, se sont acharnés dans la nuit du 9 au 10 mai sur les sépultures, à coups de barre à mine et de pelles, sans signer leur barbarie. Les réactions à cet acte antisémite sans précédent en France, ont été unanimes:

hommes politiques, responsables religieux, dirigeants d'associations anti-racistes... ont tous dénoncé ce «crime contre l'humanité», cette «offense à la condition de l'homme».

Le président François Mitterrand a qualifié jeudi «cet attentat» de «particulièrement abject», ajoutant que «quel qu'en soient les auteurs, quelque soin qu'ils prennent d'agir dans l'ombre, lâchement, contre des morts, il faut qu'ils soient retrouvés et châtiés». Il a par ailleurs appelé les Français à «se ressaisir», dans une allusion à la montée réelle du racisme dans l'Hexagone. L'ancien premier ministre conservateur Jacques Chirac a lui aussi souligné la «crise» que traverse le

pays. «Nous en sommes tous responsables, a-t-il affirmé, et nous devons tous lutter contre les incitations à la haine raciale».

Il est vrai que la profanation du cimetière de Carpentras intervient dans un climat délétère d'intolérance en France. Dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, des inscriptions antisémites et pro-nazies avaient été peintes sur des magasins de la ville voisine d'Avignon, de même qu'à Rambouillet, près de Paris. Actes racistes, parmi tant d'autres.

De nombreuses personnalités ont dénoncé, à l'instar du ministre de l'Intérieur, les idées «racistes» du leader de l'extrême-droite, Jean-Marie Le Pen, qui incitent à «des violences» inimaginables. Celui-ci, qui s'était permis de dire mercredi qu'il «y avait trop de juifs dans la presse» en France, a affirmé jeudi que «l'ignoble profanation (...) [lui] paraît (...) être un montage du même style que celui de Timisoara en Roumanie». M. Le Pen a fait cette déclaration à Elsenor (Danemark) où il participe à une réunion des droites européennes, en compagnie notamment de Franz Schönhuber, chef des Républicains allemands, ancien Waffen-SS.

«Comment Jean-Marie Le Pen ose-t-il dire ou insinuer qu'il y a eu machination, s'est indigné Elie Wiesel, Prix Nobel de la Paix. Qu'est-ce qu'il veut dire, que ce sont les juifs qui l'ont fait?»

Le Parlement européen a annoncé vendredi qu'il proposera prochainement des mesures à l'échelle de la CEE contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme. De son côté, la Ligue arabe s'est dite «solidaire sans réserve de la communauté juive, dont elle partage le désarroi devant l'inquietant réveil de l'antisémitisme en Europe». (D'après agences.)

Prisonnières

Mme Mitterrand sollicitée

L'Association israélienne des femmes pour les prisonnières politiques (WOFPF) a sollicité cette semaine l'intervention de Danielle Mitterrand, épouse du chef de l'Etat français, auprès du gouvernement israélien en faveur de trois détenues politiques palestiniennes.

Yael Oren, déléguée de la WOFPF, a rencontré lundi à Paris Mme Mitterrand, en sa qualité de présidente de la Fondation «France-Liberté». Elle lui a demandé une intervention «urgente» en faveur de Ne'eme al-Hilu, 38 ans, dirigeante de la plus importante organisation féminine de la bande de Gaza et menacée de bannissement ainsi que pour Intissar al-Qaq, 19 ans, enceinte de huit mois, à laquelle selon elle refusées les conditions les plus élémentaires d'hygiène et de santé. Mme Oren souhaite enfin une assistance auprès d'Ettaf Aliyan, 28 ans, dont le nez a été brisé sous les coups de ses geoliers lors d'un interrogatoire, il y a 32 mois.

Yael Oren, qui estime à une cinquantaine le nombre de femmes palestiniennes détenues dans les prisons israéliennes, prévoit une réaction «très positive et très efficace» de Mme Mitterrand. Dans l'attente de sa rencontre, mardi à Paris, avec de hauts fonctionnaires du ministère français des Affaires étrangères, elle a demandé jeudi une «action urgente» en faveur de ces trois détenues et lancé un appel à l'opinion publique internationale pour qu'elle dénonce les sévices et les «tortures» voire les «abus sexuels».

Il était une fois la Ferrari

Exposition d'une aventure à Florence

Pour la première fois, le mythe de la Ferrari, l'une des voitures les plus chères du monde, fait l'objet d'une exposition monstre à Florence, en Italie.

Devant la forteresse du Belvédère, érigée par Michel Ange, neuf Ferrari (depuis l'aînée, la Barchetta Touring 1949, à la BB de 1971) seront exposées à l'intérieur de grands cubes modernes de verre blindé climatisés. Neuf modèles prestigieux, prêts pour l'occasion par des collectionneurs du monde entier.

L'exposition a pour ambition de retracer toutes les étapes de l'aventure du «cheval cabré». «Tout d'abord les temps difficiles, explique le carrossier Sergio Pininfarina. C'était l'époque où ni Ferrari, ni nous-mêmes n'avions les moyens. Pour obtenir un niveau de qualité à cette époque-

la, c'était une bataille». Vice-président de la firme italienne, Piero Ferrari se souvient: «Mon père avait une idée fixe: arriver le premier sur les circuits de course mais aussi sur les routes». La lutte aura été longue, jusqu'au succès. «Il avait cinquante ans, lorsqu'il a créé sa première voiture, en 1947», poursuit-il.

L'exposition, intitulée «Idée Ferrari», restera ouverte jusqu'au 30 septembre en Italie. Elle devrait ensuite être déplacée dans deux grands musées étrangers, aux Etats-Unis et en Europe. (D'après agences.)

Exposition à la Fondation Shoman

(suite de la page 5)

L'origine de ce «désordre», de cette confusion dans laquelle se retrouve son travail.

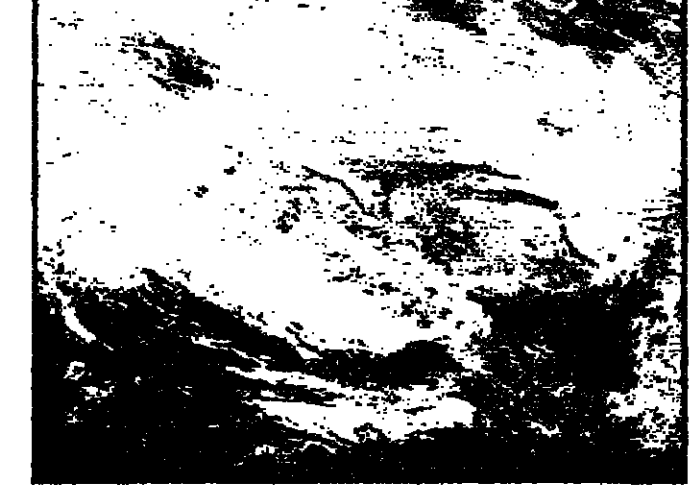
Car les symboles qu'il utilise ne sont pas employés comme vrais véhicules d'expression, obéissant aux règles de la plastique. Son travail suscite chez le récepteur un mécontentement: celui d'être accablé à la passivité, d'être dépossédé de sa force analytique.

Adnan Yahya tente de forcer nos sentiments avec des couleurs très dures. Mais il bute sur l'échec de l'art engagé, quand il s'élève des thématiques universelles: il n'arrive plus à transmettre convenablement le message souhaité.

L'œuvre ne sert alors plus l'idée initiale et échappe peu ou prou au monde de la peinture.

Rula Shukairy. Autodidacte; membre de l'Institut Fakh Al-Nissa des Beaux-Arts depuis 1984; expositions individuelles au RCC (1986 et 1989); a participé à plusieurs expositions collectives depuis 1986.

Rula Shukairy présente une



Rula Shukairy.

trentaine de dessins à l'encre, exécutés sur carton. Nous sommes ici en présence d'une peinture instinctive. Une peinture intuitive, qui est l'œuvre d'une amatrice des arts, possédant un don qu'elle exprime sans formation académique d'aucune sorte.

Rula est une artiste très sensible, qui s'exprime aisément avec la couleur. On remarque, au fil de ses dessins, des changements de sensations, mais la peinture parvient à préserver une unité de style.

Il ne faut pas chercher un thème quelconque aux œuvres de Rula Shukairy, car, comme nous l'avons souligné, sa peinture est un travail instinctif, qui a pour unique objectif d'extérioriser ses sentiments profonds.

L'artiste tente souvent de mettre une ligne sur ses couleurs, comme pour les marquer d'une touche académique. Mais ce sont ses dessins de purs coloris qui demeurent, de loin, les plus sensibles.

Sabah Al-Hadidi.

(*) Voir «A l'Affiche», page 6.

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Théâtre au RCC

Du côté de chez Brontë

Vanessa Batrouni, connue en Jordanie en tant que réalisatrice de comédies musicales, présente cette semaine au Centre culturel royal (RCC) une nouvelle pièce, «Brontë». Une pièce, qui selon elle, n'a cette fois rien d'une comédie musicale.

Quoi alors? Les comédiens chantent, et même beaucoup. «C'est une pièce de théâtre à la chanson, dit l'auteur. Ces dernières servent à intensifier le drame, expliquant le monde intérieur des trois sœurs Brontë: Charlotte, Emily et Anne».

On parle ici de la vie de trois des plus célèbres romancières de la littérature anglaise du XIXème siècle, métamorphosées par Vanessa Batrouni en personnages théâtraux. «Voilà dix ans que j'ai cette idée en tête, poursuit-elle. J'avais relu, par hasard, «Jane Eyre», écrit par Charlotte. Son premier grand succès. Eprise du style, je voulais connaître davantage la femme qui l'a créée. Et c'est à travers cette recherche que je suis entrée dans un monde fascinant, le monde des sœurs Brontë».

L'univers qu'elle a découvert est un univers clos mais vivant, un pays imaginaire que les jeunes sœurs, avec la participation de leur frère Branwell, ont inventé pour s'amuser. «Ils jouaient au théâtre, précise Vanessa Batrouni. Ils créaient et interprétaient les personnages. Au-

teurs précoces, ils ont écrit une chronique très détaillée de ce monde. On ne peut pas sous-estimer l'importance psychologique de leur jeu. Commencé en enfance, il a duré de nombreuses années. On retrouve l'aînée, Charlotte, encore impliquée dans cet univers à l'âge de 23 ans. C'est l'importance de ce phénomène à la fois théâtral et littéraire que la pièce tente de mettre en lumière».

Laquelle des trois sœurs trouve-t-elle la plus fascinante? «Elles avaient chacune un caractère différent. La plus jeune, Anne, était la plus tranquille. Emily, qui nous a fait cadeau des «Hauts de Hurlevent», était farouche mais solitaire. Franchement, c'est Charlotte qui me hante. C'est la seule des trois qui a réussi à rompre les liens avec ce monde qu'elles ont inventé et dans lequel elles vivaient. C'est elle qui se rattache au monde réel et devient une adulte. C'est d'ailleurs cette passion pour la vie, exprimée avec franchise, que l'on retrouve dans «Jane Eyre», un livre qui continue de me bouleverser».

L'objectif de l'auteur de «Brontë»: «Faire comprendre à quel point l'univers théâtral enfantin des trois sœurs est à la source de leurs génies littéraires respectifs. J'espère que la pièce le montre bien».

Sami Kamal.

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. Les quatre peintres jordaniens Adnan Yihya, Ghada Dahdaleh, Mohammad Samara, Rula Al-Shukairy, et la sculptrice Larisa Najjar, exposent leurs toutes dernières œuvres.

Centre des expositions de la Fondation Shoman (Shameian), jusqu'au 7 juin. Ouvert tous les jours, sauf les vendredis. Entrée libre.

Feutres et encres. Né à Jérusalem en 1940, George S. Kaplanian présente un ensemble de peintures au feutre et de dessins à l'encre de Chine.

Institut Goethe, jusqu'au mercredi 16 mai. Entrée libre. Tél: 641993.

Peinture. Artiste libanaise, Randa Berouti expose une série de toiles consacrées à la vie quotidienne en Palestine, au Liban et en Jordanie.

Institut Goethe, du 19 au 29 mai. Vernissage samedi à 17h00. Entrée libre.

THEATRE

«Brontë», ou comment le théâtre enfantin des sœurs Brontë se trouve être à l'origine de trois génies littéraires contrastés. Centre culturel royal, du 13 au 17 mai, à 19h00. Texte et réalisation: Vanessa Batrouni; musique: Brenda Cooper; interprétation: Royal Theatre Company (voir FOCUS). Prix des places: 4 dinars.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

«Un Amour à Paris», de Merzak Allouache, avec Catherine Wilkening et Karim Allaoui (1986). Présenté dans le cadre du cycle «cinéma beur» du centre culturel français, le film raconte la rencontre entre Ali, né en France, et Marie, née à Alger... Centre culturel français, dimanche 13 mai à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

LUNDI

«Who Framed Roger Rabbit?», de Robert Zemeckis, avec Bob Hoskins, Christopher Lloyd, Charles Fleischer et Joanna Cassidy. Les aventures d'un lapin (pale reflet de Bugs Bunny), produit de l'image de synthèse, et d'un homme de chair et de sang, aux prises avec un affreux ghetto où ne s'aventure pas impunément qui veut... Centre américain, dimanche 13 mai à 19h00 (en anglais).

MARDI

18h15 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu (finale de Nimès). 18h35 - L'Appart, sitcom à la française, avec Roger Pierre. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h07 - «Panique aux Caraïbes» (premier épisode): série policière... 18h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Symbiose animale et végétale: documentaire.

JEUDI

17h45 - «Molierissimo» (3): dessin animé pour les jeunes. 20 ans d'histoire de France, vu par un enfant de 10 ans, en compagnie du dramaturge Molière. 18h12 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu. 18h32 - La Chanson aux Chansons: émission de variétés françaises du passé, présentée par Pascal Sevran. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

VENREDI

17h25 - «Conseil de Famille», de Costa-Gavras, avec Johnny Hallyday, Fanny Ardant et Guy Marchand. Une mère, ses deux enfants et l'ami de la famille fêtent la sortie de prison d'un père, perçeur de coffres. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Portraits, ou métiers de femmes. Cette semaine: la bistrote.

SAMEDI

17h45 - Le Monde est à Vous: émission-jeu de Jacques Martin. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France: documentaire.

JEUX

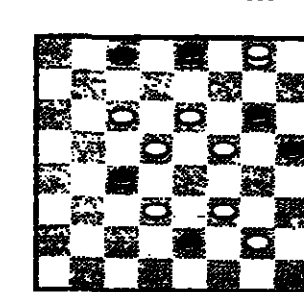
LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

GASTRONOMES. La cuisine reste apparemment pour les Françaises une arme de séduction, un moyen efficace pour attirer et parfois garder les petits gourmands qui les intéressent, à en juger par un récent sondage. Lorsqu'elles passent une soirée avec l'homme de leur vie, 56% d'entre elles choisissent de préparer son plat préféré; 32% pensent d'abord à passer chez le coiffeur; 9% seulement estiment nécessaire de relire l'œuvre complète de son écrivain favori, selon l'enquête, réalisée au début du mois de février pour le compte d'un groupe électroménager.

IDEE? L'Egypte a une dette extérieure de plus de 50 milliards de dollars, mais elle dispose d'un trésor archéologique gigantesque, notait fin avril au Caire l'hebdomadaire intégriste «Al-Nour» (La Lumière), tirant aussitôt la conclusion: «Vendons le trésor pour payer la dette». «Al-Nour» a néanmoins pris soin d'interroger les Oulémas, qui seraient, selon le journal, manimes: rien, au regard de la Charia, ne s'oppose à la vente des richesses pharaoniques exposées dans les musées nationaux. Et l'un d'entre eux d'ajouter: «A quoi bon garder ces trésors, alors que des milliers d'Egyptiens, démunis et dépourvus de logement, sont condamnés à vivre dans les cimetières?». Et de s'enrichir: «D'ailleurs, l'on connaît le jugement de l'Islam sur ces statues antiques, produits du polythéisme».

DAMES

Problème N. 10.



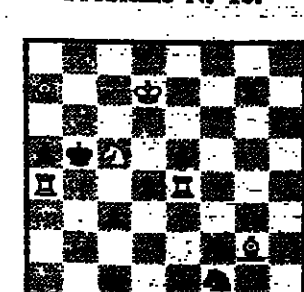
Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.

Solution du problème N. 9:

B. 18-14; N. 12-26; B. 10-6; N. 1-28 (ou 26); B. 6-29.

ECHECS

Problème N. 10.



Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 9:

T8-d8.

Islamist sweep of campus elections — mobilised effort or lack of alternative?

By Lami K. Andoni

AMMAN — The Islamist bloc's landslide victory in the first student elections in 16 years by dominating an ad hoc committee for a student federation at the University of Jordan last Wednesday is widely viewed as part of a full-fledged Islamist mobilisation campaign following setbacks suffered by the movement in various professional associations elections over the last two months.

"The outcome refutes all claims that the Islamists are losing ground," boasted a Muslim Brotherhood official Thursday. "It is not true that the professional associations elections were an indication of our weakness," he said.

But there is no doubt that Wednesday's election is seen by many observers as constituting a compensation for the Islamists' defeat in the professional associations elections which were dominated by leftists and pan-Arab nationalist groups.

At the University of Jordan, however, the results were beyond all expectations. For even though the Islamists have always maintained a strong presence at the university, leftists and independents had anticipated a bigger share than the four per cent of the vote that they won. The Islamists won 82 seats out of the 85

seats, practically excluding any power for the leftist-leaning "Committee of Nationalist Initiative," in the ad hoc committee.

"We respect the outcome of the elections, and the students' will," commented a member of the leftist coalition, which includes supporters of the Jordanian organisation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Jordan People's Democratic Party, the Communist Party and many supporters of Fateh.

"We consider the present ad hoc committee our representative but our support will hinge on its readiness to adhere to pluralism and to the idea of establishing a general students union for all of the universities," he added.

The leftists' main concern is that the Islamists would adhere to a prior agreement that the emerging union should be a general union for all students in Jordan's four universities. According to student activists, the main focus of the debate at Jordan universities in the last four months had been whether to establish separate unions for the various universities or one unified general union for Jordanian students.

Despite their rivalries, the Islamic bloc and the leftist "Nationalist Initiative Committee" agree on the need for one unified general students union. The agreement was

further legitimised by a referendum, sponsored by the university's department of students affairs, last April. The results of the referendum showed that 78 per cent of the University of Jordan's students supported a general union.

Students said that 46 per cent of the estimated 17,000 students took part in the referendum. But leftists argued that they feared the Islamists would renege on the agreement, especially that the Islamists at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) contested the elections on the basis of separate students unions at the university. The Islamists' action at JUST was said to have triggered a boycott of the elections by 49 per cent of the students, leaving the ad hoc committee under complete control of the Islamists.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Islamists, however, argued that there was no central decision by the movement regarding the students' organisations. But leftists cast suspicion that the Islamists might be manoeuvring and might accept the fragmentation of the union into separate and independent university chapters.

"Such a step will dilute students' strength and role in the democratisation process in the

country," argued one leftist activist.

Rivalry between the leftists and the Islamists at the University of Jordan reached its peak in the mid and late seventies, especially after the government dissolved the students union in 1974 and replaced it with separate departmental student societies. In those years leftist students were banished and some of them jailed, particularly after student riots in protest against the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's controversial visit to Jerusalem and the American-brokered Camp David peace accords.

Many Jordanians still recall how leftist students and their sympathisers were frequently interrogated by the security authorities and some were even expelled from the university for their activities.

"The leftists received a serious blow leaving the university for the Islamists," insisted one leftist.

However, analysts cite other reasons behind the Islamists' victory at the university, including the high level of organisation of the Muslim Brotherhood, especially at the grassroots level.

"We do admit that we still have a lot of work to do to increase our interaction at the grassroots level in our universities," a leftist student said.

Another extremely signifi-

cant factor cited by both leftist activists and independent observers alike is a manifestation of fear from the idea of organising political and opposition groups and parties.

"After a three-decade ban on political parties and strict security constraints and punitive measures, this is a natural phenomenon," said a political scientist at the university.

Although there have been no in-depth or field studies to explain students' attitudes there are indications that the idea of pluralism and democracy has not been entrenched yet in the social norms and behaviour. "The whole idea of active participation is still feared by many students except for the Islamists and the leftists," the political scientist explained.

Leftists argue that despite the democratisation process voting for the Islamists, who had traditionally been seen as allies of the establishment, is still viewed "a safer option by students."

Islamists, on the other hand, insist that the outcome represented "their real strength and students' support for Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood."

This argument is contested by some observers who insist that many students who had nothing to do with the Brotherhood, including Christians, voted against the left "as a result of a longstanding hostility



The sweeping victory of the Islamic movement in a recent student election at the University of Jordan has given rise to conflicting contentions and arguments: Do the election results reflect a better-organised movement by the Islamists or the lack of alternatives of the students, or just student reluctance to embrace organised political movements?

are being raised by students, professors and observers are the following:

— Will it take the country long to reverse the impact of the instilled fear and suspicions in organised political movements?

— Were the results partly determined by the Islamists' influence in the Ministry of Education?

— Were the results an indication of an overwhelming support for the application of Islamic codes?

The initial answer, according to analysts, must be a combination of the three factors, but they all maintain that there is a real need to study the trends among our young generations.

Ex-king nurses dreams of return to Romania

By Clare Patrick

GENEVA (WNL) — Old film footage shows him as a shy boy, king, ill at ease in his stiff military uniform as he receives German officers, who have recently invaded his country. The year was 1940 and King Michael of Romania, just 18-years-old, was at the start of an eight-year reign that was to end in a forced abdication and a lifetime of exile.

Now, aged 68, the former king dreams of going back to the land he left under such bitter circumstances. He is not alone. Recent events in Eastern Europe have given rise to speculation that monarchies could be restored in Bulgaria, Hungary and Yugoslavia, and maybe one day, even in Albania. Yet King Michael differs from other claimants to the throne of Central Europe in one very important detail: he is the only one among them to have ruled as king, the last surviving ruler from World War II.

Two parties which have risen from the ashes since the execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December — the National Peasants and the Liberals — have appealed to the former king to come back as ruler in a constitutional monarchy. Reports from inside the country reveal that many of the older generation have dug out yellowing pictures of the king as a young man and pinned them on the walls for the first time in more than four decades of communism.

Probably worried about the political impact that a visit by the former king would have, Romania's government has cancelled his visa and refused him permission to come as a tourist, which he requested this spring.

King Michael is guarded about a possible return. "I've been longing for this moment for more than 40 years, but now I'm waiting for the situation to become more stable," he said in an exclusive interview. "My one wish is to serve my people, and I'll go back when they ask me to. But many of the young people don't even know what a constitutional monarchy is. They only know what they've been taught by the communists — that we were terrible people who sucked the country dry."

King Michael has had to content himself with sending three of his five daughters as emissaries — the eldest, 40-year-old Margaret, the fourth-born, Sophie, 36, and Helen, who recently arrived in Bucharest with an aid convoy from England. Margaret and Sophie have paid two visits since the Ceausescu regime fell. Both have given up their homes and jobs — Margaret worked with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation in Rome, and Sophie was in her final year of a graphics arts course in Washington, D.C.

The former king's relations with the interim National Salva-

tion front government now ruling Romania are less than cordial. He has openly criticised the new leaders for what he describes as "undemocratic behaviour" and declares that the upcoming national elections scheduled for May 20 will be a farce.

"A lot of people fought bravely for their freedom, but nothing has really changed," he said. "They've got rid of Ceausescu but the old communist guard is still in power. They've changed the color of their coat, nothing more."

Sixty-two parties have registered for the elections, he explained, but most of them are communists with a democratic facade. The others have virtually nothing in the way of resources to run election campaigns — no pencils, no access to the media. "The people are being asked to vote for something they know nothing about," the former king added, commenting on the sometimes confused aspect of the current leadership. "I just don't see how it can work."

Today Michael of Romania lives in a modern villa in a small village 10 minutes away from Geneva. There, he and his wife Anne — descended from the Danish and French royal families — live a lifestyle that is comfortable, but certainly not regal. They have a chef to help them entertain, but certainly not regal. They have a chef to help them entertain, but not royal entourage. Queen Anne often does the shopping herself, and the couple talk frankly about their lack of capital, a factor which could cause problems were they to be recalled to Romania.

"Since I left I've always had to work for a living," King Michael said. His first experience as an ordinary citizen was in England, two years after his forced abdication in 1948, when he and his wife set up a market garden enterprise, selling vegetables, chicken and eggs. He later moved to Geneva to work as a test pilot for the Lear aviation company. "I also had a small electronics company, but the competition got too tough," he said. "At one stage, I even had to try my hand at working on the New York stock exchange. It was not exactly my line, but somehow we had to make ends meet."

Life has certainly not been kind to Michael of Romania. At age 6 he became king for the first time, on the death of his grandfather Ferdinand I who refused to entrust the crown to his own son, Carol, a dissolute character with a reputation as a heavy drinker and a womanizer. Michael's spell as the young regent lasted three years, until his father ousted him from the throne. When the Germans marched in at the start of World War II King Carol abdicated and left for Paris. His wife divorced him and Michael, then 18, was left to rule as a puppet-king under the Nazis.



King-turned businessman Michael of Romania, here with his wife Anne, was recently refused a visa to visit Romania as a tourist, which prompted demonstrations in Bucharest (WNL)

In 1944 the Germans left and the Soviet Red Army took over. Michael had the unenviable claim of being the only monarch to have served under both Hitler and Stalin. As a parting shot, the Germans blew up the royal palace. King Michael and his mother were forewarned and sought refuge in the countryside. Then, in 1948, three years after swallowing Romania into the East bloc, Stalin demanded that the young king abdicate.

"They blackmailed me," he recalled. "They put this paper in front of me and as I went to study it in my office I realised that they had cut the telephone lines and that artillery soldiers had surrounded the house. They said that if I did not sign, 100,000 young people being held in prison would be executed. I could not take the responsibility."

In the years that followed, during his long exile in Western Europe, King Michael learned to adopt what he calls a dual personality. "To many people inside and outside Romania I have never stopped being their king, and that means you have certain obligations. On the other hand, most of the rest of the world considered me as being the same as hand, most of the rest of the world considered me as being the same as anyone else. My life as king was something that was finished, behind me."

Contacts with other European royals are still strong. King Michael is close to Britain's Prince Philip as well as members of the Dutch, Danish, Belgian, Spanish and Norwegian royal families. "All of them wrote and telephoned during the events of last Christmas," he said. Of the

European royals-in-exile, King Michael is closest to Simeon of Bulgaria who lives in Madrid. Victor Emmanuel, exiled heir to the former throne of Italy, is a neighbour. He too lives close to Geneva.

Since the December revolution King Michael had had letters from as far afield as Australia, Japan and India, he says. He has also received dozens of visits from fellow Romanians. "Some of them have been political people, others simply individuals. A lot of them have been young people. They are all very worried that their revolution is being stolen from them. The whole idea was to throw out the system, but that does not mean just getting rid of Ceausescu. He was just the worst of it."

Among reports King Michael claims to have received is one indicating that the sinister Securitate security police has not been disbanded by the interim government. "They have very cleverly moved them around to other towns and villages where their faces are not known," he said. "Large numbers have also been absorbed into the police and the army."

The king's close contact with Western relief groups has brought more worrying news. "Much of the food and medicines never reach the people who need it, but is being sent straight to Russia or sold on the black market," he said. "The system has produced the greatest corruption ever seen. People have been driven to do anything at all, purely to survive. The problem is that this has been a way of life for more than 40 years, and it will be very difficult to change it."

Arab renaissance depends on 'the learned'

(Continued from page 4)

the Arab countries and two-thirds of the female population. We remain unable to accommodate all Arab children in the primary level and high proportions of those who complete the primary level remain deprived of the opportunity to move into the following levels.

But the major shortcoming of our Arab educational systems is in the realm of quality. That is why I should like to emphasise the vital need to realise these qualitative objectives of future education, if our nation is to aspire to a promising future in the world of the strong and powerful of the twenty-first century.

Let us remember that in 1950 the levels of education, income and industrialisation in the Arab World were higher than those in most of East and Southeast Asia, those countries which are now referred to as the "new tigers". They provided for both "quality" and "quantity" education and advanced by leaps, just as we in the Arab Nation can, for we still have a chance, during the nineties, to realise qualitative objectives in our educational systems

so as to meet the twenty-first century with greater power and force.

The realisation of those ten goals would be the greatest achievement this generation can accomplish and bequeath to succeeding generations for them to build upon. It is a greater challenge which we ought to meet. Indeed, it is the key to our success in confronting other challenges, foreseen and unforeseen.

It is a difficult but not an impossible task. It will require huge human, financial and organisational resources but such resources will have been expended towards a worthy and noble goal. Not to realise that goal would mean squandering our resources in the future, nor should the onus of providing the needed human, financial and organisational resources for future education be the exclusive responsibility of the state. The experience of the past decades proved in our countries and others, both East and West, that the state, no matter how wealthy it is, cannot do everything; and even when it does, it compromises "quality." Hence we see societies and states seek

an equitable partnership in which they share duties, tasks and responsibilities, in an effort to translate this partnership into a "new social contract" where the various civic organisations and sectors would shoulder part of the responsibility in the provision of education and jobs. Nor is this a call to relieve the state of its responsibilities, but rather a plea for allowing greater civic participation.

The Arab Thought Forum, which Amman is honoured to host, has done well to take the initiative to reopen the file on education for the Arab Nation and study the issue in a comparative and in-the-field approach. Naturally, the Arab Thought Forum is picking up on the pioneering endeavour which ALECSO undertook thirteen years ago and whose works in this regard have been published in several volumes under the title "Educational Strategy in the Arab World."

Yet the Arab Thought Forum's endeavour is not bound by traditional formats, nor is it impeded by bureaucratic and political

obstacles that seem to encumber most of the work of official Arab organisations on common Arab action. In this regard the Arab Thought Forum is a model Arab organisation and we look forward to seeing more such organisations emerge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference is the first step in a journey of a thousand miles. We as peoples, states, governments and leaders must continue our journey in a manner consistent with the rapid changes taking place in the world today. Jordan has in fact embarked on a ten-year educational reform programme and has made reasonably good strides. Over the past two years, other Arab countries have started similar projects and we hope the remaining Arab countries and organisations will do likewise and reopen the file on education in order to develop education so as to meet the challenges of the future.

May God give you guidance and bless your endeavours. "Say unto them: Carry on, Allah will surely watch your work as will His Messenger and the believers."

Arab professionals meet

(Continued from page 1)

for the "disasters" that befell the Arab World. "The lessons of the past have taught us that the disasters and catastrophes that we (Arabs) suffered were due to disunity and differences among us," he said.

He added that the dangers posed by the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine should be met by Arab leaders regardless of how great their differences are. "It is not impossible to resolve these differences... we should not allow the great danger (the immigration) to get priority over them," Badran said.

He added that Soviet Jewish immigration to the Israeli-occupied territories threatens "our homeland, nation, security and scientific development," and affirmed that the Amman gathering of Arab professional associations' representatives "is a practical manifestation of our awareness of these dangers."

Mobilisation urged

The secretary general of the

Arab Lawyers Federation, Farouq Abu Issa, attacked Arab leaders for their differences and called for an immediate democratisation of Arab countries as well as more practical programme of action to counter threats facing the region.

"If they do not open the windows, the Arab home will collapse with all its holds, and there will be a day when the ruler and the ruled will meet," Abu Issa warned.

He attacked Arab leaders' differences and maintained that "if we forgive them their past deeds, we will not forgive them from now."

Abu Issa said "the souls of martyrs will call on them: Any difference between the leaders after today will be considered a luxury which we will not accept."

He added that "the hearts of the Arab Nation will be looking towards Baghdad to follow on the Arab summit," scheduled to be held in the Iraqi capital May 28.

"We do not want a traditional summit; we want a summit that feels with the pulse of the people, and which will rewrite Arab

strategies so that it would be based on the motto: We befriend those who befriend us and fight that who fight us," Abu Issa said.

'Stop Israeli expansionism'

Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, chairman of the meeting, warned that Soviet Jewish immigration will engulf Palestinian land "with the aim of expansionism into other Arab countries."

"We cannot fight this danger unless we exterminate the cancer; either we exist or we do not," Abbadi said.

He added that the Arab conflict with Israel "is a war of existence and not of borders." He called for the unity of the Arab Nation "and the burial forever of differences between the Arab regimes."

He also called for quick moves towards holding an Arab summit "in which all participate (and) arrive at strong and effective decisions."

Abbadi stressed the need to rejuvenate the "Eastern Front and support the steadfastness of Jordan, the real supporter of the Palestinian uprising."

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

amounts of money and effort that will have to be paid in order to repair the damage and enable us to protect ourselves anew," the King said.

On the prevailing Iraq-Israeli tension, the King said that he could not possibly guess what Israel was planning to do, but "surely the Israelis will find temptation for aggression in a disunited Arab World."

Israel can never achieve its objectives through aggression if inter-Arab relations are sound and Arab ranks united and solid," the King added.

Answering a question, the King said: "The decision to adopt a pluralistic democratic rule in Jordan is final. Let us hope that the democratic process in Jordan will serve as an example for other Arabs."

Commission

(Continued from page 1)

The sessions should start and end on the specified time and the member's time to speak should not exceed 10 minutes unless the chairman allows that. The law also says that the member has the right to distribute a memo to other members, and that the member should address the chairman in discussions. The chairman, according to the article, can stop the member if he or she deviates from the topic under discussion. It also posits that the member cannot speak unless permitted by the chairman, provided that the chairman cannot refuse permitting any member to speak without a good reason. The members should not interrupt each other, should not digress and should not include personal matters and slander in discussions, according to the stipulations.

Iraq proposes meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war fighting ended with a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988. But post-war peace talks went nowhere.

Aside from the Shatt Al Arab dispute, Iran demands that Iraqi troops withdraw from several hundred square kilometres of its territory. Both sides still hold tens of thousands of prisoners.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassah reported Thursday that President Hussein's letter said Iraq was ready to meet Rafsanjani in Mecca for a new start to

negotiations based on the Algiers treaty of 1975.

Iraq declared the treaty null and void shortly before the Gulf war.

According to Al Siyassah, President Hussein's letter suggested Rafsanjani reconsider Iranian accusations that Iraq was acting as an agent of the United States in its war with Iran.

President Hussein also linked proposals for an Iran-Iraq settlement to broader Middle East issues, calling for an Arab-Islamic front against Israel, the Kuwaiti newspaper said.

He described migration of Soviet Jews to Israel — on the agenda of an Arab summit to be held in Iraq May 28 — as a danger to both Arabs and the Islamic World, the report said.

Tehran Times said Saturday that while the content of the Iraqi letter was still secret "it can however be gleaned that Iraq wishes to hold direct talks with Iran, but out of the framework provided by the U.N.-sponsored peace resolution, at the presidential level."

Non-OPEC may cut oil output to help prices

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The energy minister of Oman, Said Bin Ahmad Al Shantari, said Saturday independent oil producers might cut output to support Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) efforts to reverse a slide in oil prices.

"Non-OPEC producers may, after discussions with OPEC members, take steps to cut oil output," Tehran Radio quoted Shantari as saying in a statement at the start of a visit to Iran. It gave no details.

Oman in the past has led non-OPEC producers in a dialogue with OPEC to stabilise oil prices. OPEC members agreed May 3 to cut its total output by six per cent to around 22 million barrels per day (bpd), to prop up oil prices that plunged 25 per cent this year because of a glut.

OPEC urged independent producers to help by cutting their own production. Oman welcomed the OPEC agreement and was willing to cooperate with the group, the radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Shantari as saying. Oman's output is about 650,000 barrels a day.

Shantari said he would discuss the world oil market, as well as oil exploration in waters shared by Oman and Iran, with Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgash.

UAE wants higher quotas
United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sul-

tan Al Nahayan Saturday said his country firmly supported OPEC's unity but called for "fair distribution" of oil quotas among its 13 member states.

Sheikh Zayed, addressing a group of Japanese journalists prior to an official visit to Tokyo starting Sunday, said that the UAE postponed its request for an increase of its quota only to help efforts to absorb an oil glut on the world market that has been pressuring prices downward.

He did not say when the long-standing request would be formally presented to the OPEC ministerial council, whose next meeting is scheduled for June 25.

"The United Arab Emirates, which has been an active member in OPEC since its establishment... still firmly supports OPEC's objectives for achieving stable and balanced levels of world oil price and production," said Sheikh Zayed, currently in China on the first leg of the Asian tour that is also taking him to Indonesia.

The interview was circulated by the UAE official news agency WAM.

The UAE president pointed to the "sacrifices" made by his country in order to preserve OPEC's unity in the interest of all member states.

"We have agreed to reduce our oil production to preserve OPEC's unity and solidarity and also agreed to delay the increase

of our quota later to prevent a possible glut in the market," said Sheikh Zayed.

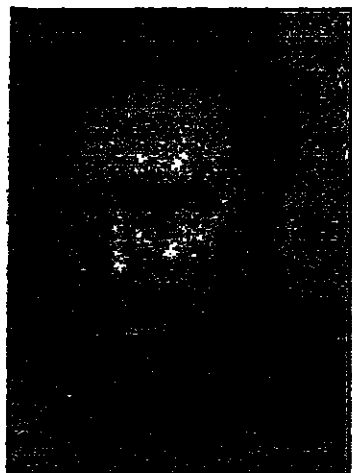
"But we always call for fair distribution of the quotas, and the UAE still calls for a fair quota and at the same time is eager to preserve OPEC's unity and approves its resolutions," Sheikh Zayed added when asked about the quota system.

The UAE was given 1.095 million barrel a day quota at the November OPEC ministerial meeting, although it had been calling for more to match its massive oil reserves and production capacity of 3.5 million barrels a day.

The country's overshooting of its OPEC quota by about a million barrels per day was the leading reason for the glut on the world market. The UAE reduced its production to 1.9 million following OPEC calls to contain the recent fall of oil prices this month.

The UAE has an estimated two billion barrels of oil reserves, sufficient to place it among the top oil exporting countries for over 100 years. UAE oil leaders affirm.

Sheikh Zayed stressed his country's keen interest in preserving cooperation with Japan, hoping that no developments would occur to undermine such cooperation. Japan is a major oil-consuming nation, and the UAE's top oil partner.



Cuba opens first joint venture tourist hotel

VARADERO, Cuba (R) — President Fidel Castro, saying good management has nothing to do with ideology, has opened Cuba's first joint venture hotel initiative aimed at boosting hard-currency tourism earnings for the island's socialist economy.

"It's the first time in our revolution that we are inaugurating a construction built in association with foreign capitalists," Castro said Thursday night after opening the \$30-million four-star Las Palmeras hotel, which will be run by Spanish entrepreneurs.

The 408-room Las Palmeras at Varadero, Cuba's main tourist resort 140 kilometres east of Havana, is built with Spanish capital and Cuban materials and labour.

It is the first such product of Cuba's ambitious tourism development policy, which offers Western entrepreneurs a slice of the island's lucrative tourist market in exchange for development capital and management expertise.

Communist-ruled Cuba, squeezed by a U.S. trade embargo and burdened by a more than \$6 billion foreign debt, is banking on tourism to boost its very low convertible currency reserves, currently hovering around only \$100 million.

Las Palmeras will be jointly owned by Cuba's state tourism company, Cubanacan S.A. and Spain's Corporation Hispano-Instermar S.A. through a mixed company called Cubacan.

Spain's prestigious Sol-Melia Hotel Group, which is part of the Corporation Hispano-Instermar, will run Las Palmeras and other hotels being built under the same 50-50 ownership arrangement at Varadero and other tourist sites.

A five-star hotel, the Cohiba, is being constructed in Havana in association with another Spanish investment group, Ibercusa S.A., while there are plans for similar initiatives with Austrian and Finnish companies in Cuba's second city, Santiago de Cuba.

Castro said Thursday the joint ventures were necessary to boost the quality of management in tourism, potentially the Caribbean island's biggest growth sector. Tourism earns Cuba around \$140 million a year.

"We don't know how to administer hotels, how to make money out of tourism. It's not a question of ideology, it's a question of technique," the Cuban leader said.

Castro has said Cuba will never change its 30-year-old socialist system for capitalism, which he has described as a form of robbery. But he says the country's socialism can be improved.

Cuba, the biggest island in the Caribbean, has thousands of kilometres of virgin beaches and coral reefs but tour operators say poor quality service and accommodation, inefficiency and a lack of capital has hampered tourist development in the 31 years since the 1959 revolution led by Castro.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, May 12, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	666.0	679.0
French franc	118.0	124.7
Deutsche mark	406.7	409.1
Swiss franc	475.9	478.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	120.4	121.1
	436.0	438.6
Dutch guilder	361.7	363.9
Swedish crown	111.0	111.7
Italian lira (for 100)	35.1	35.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	197.0	198.2

Indonesia sits on a pot of black gold

By Kenneth L. Whiting
The Associated Press

DURI, Indonesia — Under the jungles of central Sumatra are an estimated two billion barrels of viscous oil that cannot be pumped by conventional means from the fine sand in which it rests.

"If you take cold honey out of the refrigerator, it won't pour easily until it warms up. That's what we have here," an oilman explained.

To get the thick-as-honey crude moving, engineers are pumping steam into the old Duri field to heat the oil so that it will flow.

"This requires a lot of work, but it's worth the effort," because there is strong demand from pollution-conscious countries for Duri crude, which has a low sulfur content, said Esy P. Price, executive vice-president of Caltex Petroleum Indonesia.

Caltex, jointly owned by the U.S.-based oil companies Chevron and Texaco, is managing the field under contract with Pertamina, Indonesia's state oil company.

The ambitious project covers 6,600 hectares and involves 324 steam generators and 4,445 new wells — 1,270 for injecting steam and 3,175 for extracting oil.

The field is divided into hexagonal patterns with one steam-injection well placed inside a ring of production wells. The idea is to flood the wells continuously with steam to dislodge the oil and

make it flow toward the surrounding wells.

During Indonesia's second largest oil reservoir, surpassed only by the neighbouring Minas field, the biggest in East Asia. At its peak in 1973, Caltex's Sumatra production — mostly from Minas — averaged nearly a million barrels a day. Output has since fallen sharply, partly because Minas is getting old, and partly because of quotas from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Duri was discovered in 1941 and put into production by Caltex in 1958. But traditional methods allowed only seven per cent of the more than five billion barrels to be recovered. After reaching 65,000 barrels a day in 1965, production fell to 30,000 barrels in the early 1980s.

'Enhanced recovery'

Caltex experimented with various types of secondary or "enhanced recovery" methods, including water injection, before starting steam-flooding five years ago. Duri now pumps more than 150,000 barrels per day and has passed Kern River and South Belridge in California as the world's largest steam-flood producer, Caltex executives said.

Duri should reach its peak of 300,000 barrels under steam-flooding by 1997. Engineers estimate that about 65 per cent of the available crude eventually will be recovered by primary and secondary means.

Project manager Roland Wilson estimated the total cost at \$1.91 billion.

Indonesia's known oil reserves are being depleted, but production is expected to start for a few more years before falling off sharply. Pertamina officials say the country may have to begin importing crude oil by the year 2001 unless the rate of striking new deposits increases.

Saddled with huge foreign debts and a devalued currency from previous oil price collapses, the government managed in the late 1980s to reduce the economy's reliance on fuels. Oil at one time accounted for about two-thirds of export income and state revenue.

Deregulatory measures, prompted by plunging oil prices during the past decade, included major tax reforms, incentives for exporting and investment in the non-oil sector, and liberalising the financial and capital markets.

Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) — the output of goods and services minus foreign income — is expected to increase more than six per cent this year, compared with average annual rates of less than four per cent from 1985 to 1987.

Deregulation boosted the economy by cutting costs and opening up areas such as banking to private enterprise. Inflation has stayed below 10 per cent for several years, and there is more confidence in the rupiah, which has been allowed to gradually

depreciate since its most recent devaluation in 1986.

Daunting problems
But Indonesia still faces some daunting economic problems, including paying interest on a foreign debt of more than \$50 billion and creating enough jobs for a work force that grows by 2.5 million people each year.

The oil and natural gas share of exports has dropped from 80 per cent in the early 1980s to 40 per cent. Non-oil commodity exports earned \$13.48 billion last year, an increase of 17 per cent from 1988.

Despite a diminished role in generating revenue, oil and gas exports brought in \$8.68 billion in 1989, an increase of nearly 13 per cent from the prior year. Economists attribute the higher oil income to stronger world prices.

Mines and Energy Minister Gijunjar Kartasita is trying to stimulate more exploration and increase production from nearly-depleted wells. Drillers have been offered a better split on their production sharing contracts if they drill in the potentially rich but remote and relatively ignored eastern areas of the country and if they use secondary recovery methods to coax more oil out of existing wells.

Indonesia, Asia's only member of OPEC produces 1.26 million barrels of crude per day. But Gijunjar said that at current rates of depletion and fast-rising domestic demand, it could become a net oil importer early in the next century.

Quebec businessmen oppose Canada split

MONTREAL (R) — Some top Quebec businessmen are sounding an alarm that a divorce from English Canada would be costly and painful, puncturing earlier boasts that Quebec could manage nicely on its own.

"There are too many people saying that if we separate, everything will be fine," Paul Desmarais, the chairman of the Power Corporation financial empire, said this week.

"They haven't really thought about it seriously Canada would suffer and the province of Quebec would suffer," he said. The head of the railroad and resources conglomerate Canadian Pacific Limited issued a similar warning last week.

"Anyone who thinks two countries, or three countries or four countries is stronger than one country is living in a dream world," Chairman William Stinson said at the company's annual meeting in Montreal.

He was referring to Quebec's veiled threat that it might leave the federation if the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord, which grants the province the power to protect its distinct culture, is not passed. The deadline for ratification is June 23 but two provinces have withheld approval while a third, Newfoundland, has rescinded its ratification.

Until recently, most of Quebec's businessmen were expressing confidence that the French-speaking province, which underwent an entrepreneurial revolution in the 1980s, would easily survive a break from the rest of Canada.

"Our economists tell us that our credit rating would not go down and that Quebec would continue to be attractive to investors," Claude Beland, the chair-

man of Quebec's Desjardins Cooperative Group, told reporters in April. But as news of Canada's political problems travelled beyond the country's borders, foreigners began to hold off investing in Canada, thereby driving up Canadians' borrowing costs.

West Germany's Deutsche Bank recommended in April that investors reduce their Canadian bond holding because of the country's high interest rates and the constitutional bickering. To compensate investors, Canadian bonds are now offering yields more than two percentage points above the yields on comparable U.S. bonds.

Desmarais of Power Corporation, which does a lot of business in Europe, said he had to put deals worth 800 million dollars (685 million U.S. dollars) on the backburner because of the political uncertainty.

"They didn't mention Meech Lake specifically. They said: 'We like you and we like the project we discussed with you, but we are going to wait until after July,'" Economists have not tallied the cost of independence, in part because no one knows how independent an independent Quebec might be. Would the province opt for sovereignty-association, retaining monetary and other ties with English Canada, or full independence?

Whatever the choice, economists doubt a separation could be achieved painlessly. The financial markets would be unsettled for many months.

"It doesn't take a great deal of research to imagine the consequences of destroying a country," said Edward Neufeld, the chief economist of the Royal Bank, Canada's biggest bank.

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviets expect bumper crop
WASHINGTON (AP) — Weather conditions are favourable for a bumper grain crop in the Soviet Union this year, the U.S. Agriculture Department said Friday. The department's first forecast of the year put the 1990 Soviet grain crop at 215 million metric tons, up from 211.1 million tons produced last year. It would also be the largest Russian harvest since the record production of 257.4 million tons in 1978. Officials said the forecast includes 95 million tons of wheat, 106.5 million tons of coarse grains such as barley and sorghum, and 13.5 million tons of miscellaneous grains and pulses. Most of the increase from last year would be in wheat, up from 90.5 million tons harvested in 1989. Despite the outlook for a bumper harvest, the report said Moscow will continue to be a large buyer of foreign grain, with 1990-91 imports projected at 36 million tons during the trading year that will begin July 1. That would be down only slightly from the import level of the last two years, the report said.

Argentina loans may be released
WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) managing director asked the fund's member governments to release part of a suspended loan to Argentina and open the way to a broad deal on its \$60-billion foreign debt, IMF sources said Friday. Members of the IMF usually follow the recommendation of the official, Michel Camdessus. The 152 member governments are expected to agree to release the money, \$240 million, in about two weeks. "If that happens, Argentina would be more likely to make at least a token payment on the interest. Argentina debt is the largest in the Third World, after Brazil and Mexico. It stopped paying interest to lending banks in April 1988, and owes another \$6 billion in unpaid interest. Banks are reluctant to furnish new money while Argentina is still behind on its interest. They have said the fund should insist that the arrears be cleared up before they do any new lending. Argentina debt was selling on the market last Friday at 14 to 14.5 cents on the dollar.

Labour unrest clouds German reunification

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East German workers fear for their economic future as the German states prepare for unification, but lawmakers disagree on who is spreading the anxiety.

Parliament was fraught with finger-pointing Thursday after tens of thousands of teachers, textile workers and farmers staged nationwide protests against the unemployment expected to result from East Germany's move to the free market.

Guenther Krause, who leads the East German delegation in economic talks with West Germany, criticised what he called a "fear campaign by the left" to trigger mass anxiety over the loss of huge subsidies under the former socialist system.

Lawmaker Gregor Gysi, head of the reformed Communist Party, said East Germans were being kept too much in the dark about what has been negotiated and needed to plan for economic changes.

He said the East German negotiating team has gone into talks in a "stooped posture" to the West German delegation, which wants to remove all the vestiges of the former socialist system.

The Germans are to merge their economies and social institutions July 2, when the West

German mark is to become the currency of East Germany.

Full unification is expected next year, after the superpowers find a way to agree on the strategic role of a united Germany.

Krause said work on the final economic and social agreement between the Germans should be completed by Sunday. The parliaments of both nations then would consider the treaty.

Economists predict that many inefficient East German factories will close in the next year because they will not be able to compete in the free market, and that between 500,000 and two million East German workers will lose their jobs.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere say a quick influx of Western investment will create new jobs and raise east German living standards.

The two governments still have differences over the level of job and price guarantees to give East Germans.

The talks are being held behind closed doors, however, and many questions about how West Germany would absorb and disman-

The left-leaning Social Democrats, the junior partner in de Maiziere's governing coalition, are pressing the conservative de Maiziere to push for more social guarantees for East Germans used to cheap housing, subsidised food and guaranteed jobs.

Krause gave the 400-member parliament an update on the status of talks between the countries and a grim economic picture of the East German economy.

East Germany faces a year-end deficit of 120 billion East German marks (\$36.6 billion) inflation has risen rapidly in recent months and only 32 per cent of the nation's industries are profitable, he said.

He said the real income of East Germans will not drop after the introduction of the West German mark and in fact may rise. He said 1.5 million workers will be retrained this year, with help from West Germany, so they can compete in a Western economy.

Finance Minister Walter Romberg, a Social Democrat, created a tumult in parliament when he said he didn't know where Krause got his figure.

De Maiziere defended his representative in the economic negotiations, and said Krause got them from Romberg's Finance Ministry.

U.S. car makers launch drive to restore credibility

By Nicholas Platt Jr.
Reuters

DETROIT — The once mighty U.S. car industry is waging a campaign to restore its reputation, heavily battered by competition from abroad.

In recent weeks, General Motors Corporation (GM) and Chrysler Corporation, the nation's number one and number three carmakers respectively, have fired aggressive publicity salvos to improve the image of their vehicles.

Industry analysts said the companies were alarmed about a widespread perception, especially among young car buyers, that American models were inferior to imported ones, particularly those from Japan.

There is reason for concern. According to Amci, an auto consultancy in Warren, Michigan, 75 per cent of people aged under 45 who bought a new car last year chose an imported model.

In some places, public esteem fell so low that companies had to beg consumers to consider their cars. The GM and Chrysler campaigns take different approaches, but make the same basic appeal — give our cars the same consideration as imports and you might be pleasantly surprised.

Ford Motor Company — the number two — has been stressing the quality of its products

for nearly a decade with its "quality is job one" slogan. But its approach has been more indirect and subtle than the overt efforts of its rivals.

Ford aside, companies have been slow to learn the value of a quality image, perhaps too slow as foreign competitors have raced ahead. Japanese cars, once a tiny presence in the United States, now command more than a quarter of the U.S. market and are headed higher at the expense of the American firms.

"Way too late in the game they've come to realise the reality of the situation," said Jim Wangers, an Amci analyst. That reality has humbled Detroit, regarded as the traditional home of the U.S. car industry, in startling ways.

Just recently General Motors, considered by many to be proud and insular to acknowledge its problems, tacitly admitted some of its early 1980s cars might not have been as good as they could have been.

In one television advert, part of a \$40 million "putting quality on the road" campaign, a company worker says: "GM cars have a whole new standard of dependability and trouble-free performance," implying that previous cars had a lower standard.

"We realise we aren't there 100 per cent," a GM spokesman said of the company's quality goals.

Chrysler has also hit the airwaves and news pages with the campaign "advantage Chrysler".

In its adverts, Chairman Lee Iacocca decries America's "inferiority complex" about its own products, and demands that consumers give Chrysler cars a second look, insisting they are as good as or better than the competition.

It also features a consumer test between Honda Motor Company's Accord — the most popular car in the United States last year — and comparable Chrysler models. In the test, 83 per cent find the Chrysler vehicles superior.

Although the companies may be late in making their quality claims, they do have a legitimate gripe, analysts said. In many cases, U.S. cars are as cheap if not cheaper than Japanese ones.

There is also evidence that quality has improved, not least in the much lower number of defects for the big three car firms.

"Detroit truly believes that the gap in quality between American and Japanese cars has been closing, and that has not been reflected in market share," said Jay Leopold, an auto analyst with Legg Mason Wood Walker of Baltimore.

But analysts said it will take time for public perceptions to alter and sales to change accordingly.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The evening could bring all kinds of harsh and resentful attitudes causing considerable trouble for anyone trying to make quick headway. Avoid accidents by using more than ordinary care.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure you have properly attended to a promise you've made after which you can get into the various special creative ideas you desire to express.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A stubborn associate can be difficult to take early but later you find it possible working out conditions satisfactorily at your dwelling.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't let business matters keep you from acknowledging important communications and in the evening you are able to go and visit congenial companions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Sidelap tendency to go off to some pleasure and put your efforts in doing what will aid you to increase your present assets, income.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't let a condition at your residence keep you from getting out and accomplishing contact with those who have the same interests as yourself.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have a good time to look into all sorts of confidential means

by which to increase your efficiency; don't just sit about daydreaming of things.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about how to save rather than to spend more money and you also are then able to get the assistance of a generous-minded friend to achieve personal goal.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Your own views are too fixed now and you would be wise to listen to advice and recommendations of one in power for answers to worldly issues.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to December 21) Take someone out to first get rid of a secret anxiety then you will be able to get off to some progressive outlets and make considerable developments.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Stay out of the way of a demanding friend and instead get into some better plan of action with one close to your romantic well being.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Pacify an executive who is bugging you and be off with a magnanimous spirited associate who has the knowledge and friendships you need to succeed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think over the new idea that is insistent in your mind but don't make a commitment or let it interfere with present outlets that satisfy you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm glad you dumped a plate of spaghetti on my head. It makes me look like Michael Landon!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEYHA
THOUY
SULTES
INDOWS



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOAT EMPTY PARISH IMPOSE

Answer: What the tree that anyone gathered under was called — "POPLAR" (spelled)

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "السلامة والنجاة"

ANMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of baseball games played during the week of May 5-11.

T-BALL DIVISION:

Agaba Shipping Co vs. Jordan Express
Data Mini vs. Ishtak Library

COACH-PITCH DIVISION:

National Steel Industry 11
Arab Finance Corp. 6
Intercontinental 16
Aramex vs. AICI to be played Tuesday.

KID-PITCH DIVISION:

Tuesday, May 8:

NECC 9
Jordan Worsted Mills 12

Friday, May 11:

Danish Dairy 1
Mr. Chips 8
Westinghouse 6
Marriott 8
NECC 15
Jordan Worsted Mills 11

SOFTBALL DIVISION:

NADAS 11
Qaddoumi Agriculture 4
Volvo 1
Second Time Around 3

BASEBALL STANDINGS

COACH-PITCH DIVISION:

	WON	LOST
National Steel Industry	4	1
Aramex	3	1
Intercontinental	3	1
Epson	3	1
AICI	2	2
Arab Finance Corp.	1	4
Comcent	1	4
Pirelli	1	4

KID-PITCH DIVISION:

NECC	6	0
Danish Dairy	4	1
Jordan Worsted Mills	3	3
Marriott	2	4
Westinghouse	2	4
Mr. Chips	1	4

SOFTBALL DIVISION:

Qaddoumi Agriculture	3	2
Second Time Around	3	2
NADAS	3	2
Volvo	1	4

(Note: Football registration will take place at the ACS on May 18 and May 25.)

GOREN BRIDGE

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SQUANDER WISELY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ Q 8 5
♦ 10 3 2
♣ 9 6 4

EAST
♠ J 6 4
♥ A 10 9 6 4 3
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ A K J 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 8
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q J 6 5
♣ Q 10 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

At major events, it is usually the big hands that capture attention. However, even one-level contracts can be dramatic, as this deal from the recent Fall North American Championships illustrates.

Note: West's decision to pass South's one no trump opening bid. In the modern style a double would show the sort of hand with which you would expect to defeat the contract—a good, long suit with an entry or two, not just an arbitrary count.

East-West were New Yorkers

Adam Wildavsky and Victor King. King's opening lead of the king of clubs asked partner to unblock if he held the queen or jack, or to give count if he had neither by starting an echo with an even number of cards or playing up the line with an odd number. Wildavsky, therefore, followed with the five, which marked declarer with three clubs headed by the queen.

To learn more about the hand, West now underlined the ace of diamonds. When declarer won the jack and continued with a low diamond toward the ten, West took the ace. East signaled vigorously in hearts, so West shifted to the king of that suit and continued with the jack. Declarer played low from dummy and we know many defenders who would have ducked reflexively. But East realized he had no entry to his hearts, so he put his ace to good use. He overtook his partner's jack and reverted to a club. That allowed the defenders to collect four club tricks, two hearts and the ace of diamonds for a one-trick set. That was necessary to prevent a larger loss, since at the other table East-West played in a heart partial, losing four tricks when declarer misguessed the queen of trumps.

Capriati's road ends at Rome

ROME (AP) — It was over just when she'd given herself and the partisan crowd at the Foro Italico reason to believe it wasn't.

A return of service into the net. An easy forehand hit 2 feet (0.6 metre) long. Another return into the net. Another stray forehand. Four inexplicable errors closed out Jennifer Capriati's first international tournament.

"She just played awesome," the 14-year-old prodigy said after her 6-2, 7-5 quarterfinal loss to defending Italian Open champion Gabriela Sabatini. "She did everything right."

Sabatini, who had defeated Capriati in the finals of the American's first professional tournament in March, will meet no. 1 seed Martina Navratilova in a semifinal. Navratilova breezed through her quarterfinal match

against Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-0.

The other semifinal pits second-seeded Monica Seles against no. 11 seed Helen Kelesi. Seles destroyed Manuela Maleeva 6-0, 6-2, in her quarterfinal contest, while Kelesi bested Catarina Lindqvist 6-4, 6-3.

Things did not start well for Capriati against Sabatini. The Argentine took the court with an unshakable concentration, dictating the pace of the match, refusing to be distracted or thrown off her game. Sabatini broke Capriati's serve four times in the first set, three of those times at love.

It wasn't that Capriati was playing badly. Sabatini simply refused to let her play well. With excellent strategy and nearly flawless execution, the Argentine hit drive after drive, sending Capriati deep into the corners and keeping her from setting up for her always dangerous baseline bombs.

"I never thought I was going to lose," Sabatini said after the match. "That was the key. I didn't go out with any specific game plan other than to fight for every point."

Capriati steadied in the second set, holding serve on her first two chances before giving up a break to fall behind 4-3, and then 5-3. The contest appeared to be over.

But Capriati, who during the tournament had won over the Rome crowd with her youth and her Italian parentage and impressed them with her heart, found the strength to rally. Serving at 3-5, she connected on a backhand-smash winner to go up 4-0 and closed out the game with a solid forehand volley.

With Sabatini serving for the match, she hit a winner off a Sabatini overhead to make it 30-all, then fought off a match point before forcing Sabatini to hit long to make it 5-5.

In an instant, the momentum which Sabatini had built up during the match had dissipated. Even luck appeared to be on Capriati's side, as two of her cross-court drives caught the side-line and skidded away for winners. But Sabatini dug in, fending off two game points, squandering one of her own before prevailing in a breathtaking, all-out rally to lead 6-5.

The final game was over in an instant. Four mistakes. "I didn't lose the match at 5-5," Capriati said. "There really wasn't any turning point. She just played great. She kept me pinned to the baseline. I really didn't have many chances to attack or come to net."

The darling of the crowd and media seemed content with her Roman holiday despite the loss. "It was very very exciting," she said cheerfully. "Rome is a beautiful city. And I loved it when the fans cheered for me. It was great to be here."

While magnanimous in defeat, Capriati made no doubt that she had come to Rome convinced that she play with any of the top seeds. "Nobody intimidates me. I don't think about that. I just go out and play the ball."

Navratilova, the oldest player in the tournament at 33, played her best tennis of the week after struggling through two three-set matches against relatively unknown opponents.

"This is the best match I've played since I've been here," Navratilova said.

Manchester United, Palace tie 3-3

By Robert Millward
The Associated Press

WEMBLEY, England — Mark Hughes spoiled Ian Wright's storybook return for Crystal Palace by snatching Manchester United's overtime equaliser in a 3-3 tie in the Football Association cup soccer final Saturday.

Wright, who missed the last ten games of the league campaign after breaking his leg during a game, scored twice as he came on as substitute for his first competitive soccer for six weeks.

His two-goal performance before 80,000 fans at Wembley turned a mediocre cup final into a thriller. There may not have been much flair in the game but it was full of incident and goals.

Wright entered the game with Palace 2-1 down. His two strikes turned the game around. Before Hughes snatched an equaliser to send the game to a replay on Thursday.

Palace defender Gary O'Reilly headed his side in front on 18 minutes.

But Bryan Robson, captain of both Manchester United and England, equalised ten minutes before half time with a header deflected into the net by Palace defender John Pemberton.

As the game saw-sawed, Welsh international striker Hughes, formerly of Spanish club Barcelona, fired United in front in the 62nd minute.

But Wright squared the match in the 73rd, four minutes after taking the field, and fired Palace ahead after two minutes of overtime.

Palace, playing its first ever cup final against United's 11th appearance, looked set to

collect the cup before Hughes struck again with eight minutes of overtime remaining.

With each side fielding just one striker, the game developed into a midfield battle with United potentially holding the aces in Robson, Neil Webb, Paul Ince and Danny Wallace.

But it was Palace that snatched the lead on 18 minutes thanks to a glaring goalkeeper's error.

Jim Leighton, who will be keeping goal for Scotland in the World Cup next month, misjudged a freekick by Phil Barber and rushed off his line as the ball flew over.

O'Reilly jumped against Gary Pallister, appeared to get the decisive touch and the ball looped over Leighton and into the net.

Five minutes later, Palace should have gone further ahead when Mark Bright found Geoff Thomas in plenty of space 12

yards from goal but the Palace captain shot tamely into Leighton's arms.

United produced little to worry the Palace goalkeeper in the first half hour but he had to pick the ball out of the net after 35 minutes.

The persistent Wallace fed a pass out for Brian McClair, whose centre found Robson unmarked at the far post.

The England captain headed goalwards and, although goalkeeper Nigel Martyn appeared to have it covered, the ball was deflected past him by Palace rightback Pemberton.

United looked the more positive side at this stage and McClair missed a chance to put his side ahead seven minutes before half time when he headed wide from six yards.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Rosenthal joins Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Israeli striker Ronnie Rosenthal signed for Liverpool from Belgium club Standard Liege Friday in a £1 million (\$1.65 million) deal, the English soccer league champions announced. The move, subject to a work permit being granted, follows Rosenthal's impressive form during Liverpool's title run-in when he was on loan for a month from Standard Liege. Rosenthal, who scores seven goals from just five starts and three appearances as a substitute, has signed a three-year contract. The Israeli, with 31 caps, has now returned home to join his national squad for forthcoming internationals against the Soviet Union and Argentina.

Soviet leads tour de Trump

NEW YORK (R) — Canadian amateur Ed Kaczmarczyk cruised to an easy win over Swedish amateur Michel Laffis in Friday's 11th stage, while race leader Vladislav Bobrik of the Soviet Union conserved his energy during the Tour de Trump Cycling race. Kaczmarczyk, who took the lead early, won the 80-kilometre New York City circuit race, was timed in one hour 43 minutes 41 seconds on the eight-lap course. Laffis was second in 1:43:45. American amateur Mike McCarthy who began his cycling career by training on this same course seven years ago, overcame a flat tire with 15 kilometres remaining to finish third in 1:43:53. The American lost just 22 seconds while his tire was replaced. Bobrik, the Soviet amateur who claimed the lead after winning the third stage one week ago, was content to finish in a large pack of riders, one minute 45 seconds after the winner. Bobrik, 19, competing in his first international stage race, will encounter the most difficult stage of the race Sunday.

Agassi loses in Hamburg

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Second-seeded American Andre Agassi — asked out of the West German Open tennis championship Friday leaving Boris Becker as the only remaining seed.

Agassi, the world number four, lost 7-6, 7-6 to Swede Magnus Gustafsson in a third-round match interrupted by rain on Thursday with the score tied at 4-4 in the second set.

Gustafsson had a chance to end the match soon after the resumption Friday with the score at 5-4 but Agassi fought back to level the set at 6-6.

The American then took a 3-0 lead in the tiebreak only to see

Gustafsson rally to take the tiebreak 7-5 and win the match.

Gustafsson was later beaten 6-1, 6-4 in the quarter-finals by Spaniard Juan Aguilera, who had eliminated 10th seed Jim Courier of the United States 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 in another third-round match carried over from Thursday.

West Germany's top seed and three times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker defeated American Jimmy Arias 6-3, 6-1 in typically forceful fashion to set up a semifinal clash with resurgent Frenchman Henri Leconte.

Leconte, who is clawing his way back up the world rankings

after dropping to 152nd place because of injuries, beat Argentine Franco Davin 6-3, 6-3.

Becker reminded reporters that the Frenchman had beaten him in their only two previous meetings on clay. Two years ago Leconte won their semifinal match in the same tournament in three hard-fought sets.

"Henri is a nice guy who belongs among the best 15 in the world," Becker said.

Leconte's compatriot Guy Forget also produced some fine tennis with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory over fifth seed Jay Berger of the United States.

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Chamorro orders review of Sandinista property seizures

Managua government threatens to fire 60,000 public employees

MANAGUA (AP) — The government threatened to fire about 60,000 public employees who held sit-in strikes to demand that their wages be doubled and that a law protecting labour rights be restored.

Also Friday, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro ordered a sweeping review of property seizures during 10 years of Sandinista rule.

About 2,000 public workers, shouting "power to the people," broke through a cordon of 100 policemen late Friday and took over a plaza outside the presidential offices.

"Workers on strike should return to their jobs," said Labour Minister Francisco Rosales. "Otherwise we will declare the strike illegal and apply the labour law and those who do not show up will be fired."

Government officials refused to meet with union representatives. The workers then asked for a meeting Monday and vowed to continue the strike.

Rosales, speaking at a news conference with Mrs. Chamorro, said the government would negotiate wage increases, but not under pressure.

Government employees re-

jected a 60 per cent pay increase Chamorro had ordered earlier this week, saying it did not keep up with the steep price increases. "Prices of clothes have shot up barbarously," said Clarissa Gutierrez, 50, a janitor at the Education Ministry.

Gutierrez complained that a pound of sugar now costs 50 cents, rice 40 cents, beans 55 cents, and a quart of cooking oil \$3 — in a nation where few people can earn more than \$100 per month.

But Roberto Martinez, 40, who has a stall at Managua's sprawling Eastern Market, hoped for better times. "Things will change. The new government is just getting started. We suffered more under the Sandinistas."

The civil service law suspended Thursday by Chamorro protects employees from firing and grants them the right to strike and bargain collectively. Rosales has said it "ties the hands of the new government."

The union, called the General Confederation of Public Administration Workers, maintains that the president does not have the authority to change laws while the National Assembly is in session.

"The strike is the only instrument the workers have to preserve their rights," said Jose Angelis Bermudez, secretary general of the federation.

Chamorro told the news conference Friday, "we have inherited a country that was virtually sapped and in complete bankruptcy and it is our responsibility to get it going again."

She announced her government would review all laws passed by the leftist Sandinistas in their last two months in office. Chamorro took power on April 25.

At the time, the Sandinistas had control of the National Assembly, but Chamorro's 14-party United National Opposition (UNO) took a majority in parliament with its victory in the Feb. 25 elections.

Chamorro said all property seizures implemented by the Sandinistas during their 10½ years in power will be reviewed. The Sandinistas had confiscated some private businesses and turned them

into state enterprises and had taken land from some wealthy landowners and distributed it to peasants under an agrarian reform programme.

The president said spring planting would start this month, and she ordered that all agricultural and pasture land be opened provisionally to rental to revive farm production.

Gustavo Tabaldo, director of the Agrarian Reform Institute, said that was a temporary measure to allow land to be worked while property rights are clarified.

Food production dropped so sharply under the Sandinistas, who were the targets of a U.S.-imposed economic embargo and of military attacks by U.S.-financed rebels, that Nicaragua was forced to import crops it used to export. The Bush administration lifted the embargo the day Chamorro was inaugurated.

Chamorro also ordered a review of all laws and decrees issued by the Sandinistas between their election defeat and Chamorro's inauguration. The review is aimed at recovering government property was shifted to Sandinista officials and supporters in their last days in power.

Moscow considers law on insulting president

MOSCOW (R) — Insulting or slandering President Mikhail Gorbachev could earn six years in prison under a draft law considered by the Soviet parliament Saturday, Soviet media said.

The proposed law followed unprecedented public attacks on the Soviet leader, a result of his glasnost (openness) policies which have destroyed countless former taboos.

On May Day demonstrators chanted "down with Gorbachev" and booed him as he stood on Lenin's Mausoleum watching the festival parade. Gorbachev and other leaders left in disgust after 25 minutes of abuse.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said the proposed law would protect "the honour and dignity of the president."

The Soviet News Agency Interfax said that if it became law anyone insulting or slandering the president in public would face a fine of up to 3,000 roubles (\$5,000) or corrective labour of up to two years or a jail term of up to three years.

If the slander or insult was published or broadcast, the punishment would be up to two years of corrective labour or as much as six years in prison, Interfax said.

In addition, a newspaper, radio or television station which carried such material could be fined up to 25,000 roubles (\$41,000) and suspended, it said.

Interfax said simple criticism of the president or his policies would not be an offence. It did not say where the line between criticism and slander or insults would be drawn.

It also did not say whether the May Day attacks on Gorbachev had prompted the bill. But, a day after the incident, the Communist Party daily Pravda condemned what it called the "insulting attacks on the constitutional authorities."

Gorbachev has also suffered a flood of criticism from the rebellious Baltic republics, where some protesters have carried placards comparing him to Adolf Hitler.

New York mayor tries to cool racial tension

NEW YORK (R) — Mayor David Dinkins appealed to New Yorkers Friday night to cool racial tensions as the city faced what could be a long, hot summer due to animosity involving blacks and whites and blacks and Koreans.

"This city is sick of violence and we're aching," said Dinkins in his first major address on racial problems since his election in November as New York's first black mayor. "I challenge all of the people of this city to reject bigotry."

Tensions have been fuelled by a current murder trial in which two white youths from the mainly Italian-American Brooklyn neighbourhood of Bensonhurst are charged in the killing of a 16-year-old black.

Black-Korean tensions have been brewing as more and more Koreans open businesses in black neighbourhoods and have come to a head with an angry picket by blacks outside two Korean-owned grocery stores in Brooklyn's Flatbush district.

The blacks have boycotted the groceries for four months since a black woman alleged she was assaulted by a Korean storekeeper.

In his speech, Dinkins condemned the boycott as "intimidation" and added, "I oppose any boycott based on race." He added, "we need to make prejudice prevention an active part of life in this city."

Black demonstrators have been milling outside the Brooklyn Supreme Court this week demanding murder verdicts for Joseph Fama, 19, and Keith Mondello, 19, accused in the killing of Yusuf Hawkins, a black youth who was shot to death in the Bensonhurst.

Death toll in south India cyclone nears 300

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Nearly 300 people have been killed by a powerful cyclone carrying a path of destruction through the rich farmlands of the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, state officials said Saturday.

At least 266 people have been reported dead since the cyclone, packing winds of 240 kilometres per hour, slammed into the mouth of the Krishna River Wednesday and flattened nearly everything in its path, state officials said.

The death toll would probably exceed 300, officials at the Cyclone Control Centre in the state capital of Hyderabad said Saturday. Most of the victims have been found in the rubble of collapsed houses, they said.

State Relief Commissioner Arjuna Rao told reporters late Friday that 2.6 million people living in the path of the storm, including 400,000 who had been evacuated, were either temporarily homeless or in need of relief supplies.

He said the state has set up 550 relief camps.

Reports of deaths and property damage were still trickling in from 1,450 villages hit by one of the worst cyclones in India in a

last August after he was surrounded by whites.

Black activists, the Rev. Al Sharpton has said if there were no murder convictions "the town is going to burn down."

He has organised protest marches throughout the city, with demonstrators chanting, "no justice, no peace."

As jury deliberations continued Friday, some blacks and whites shouted angrily at each other outside the courthouse.

"I hope they come up with the right decision — otherwise it's going to be one humdinger. This is just the start," said one police officer.

"We're getting sick and tired of this" one black man shouted. But a white woman screamed, "what about our jogger?!", referring to the brutal rape and beating of a 28-year-old white woman attacked by a gang of black youths while jogging in Central Park.

In his speech, Dinkins warned, "predictions of violence and anger tend to be self-fulfilling."

"Let us not permit the prejudice of a few in Flatbush, in Bensonhurst, or wherever, to silence the goodwill of the rest of us," the Mayor said.

Dinkins said he was planning an anti-bias agenda that would include all levels of government in what he called a "system-wide initiative."

He also called on clergy and the media to take responsibility for fighting bias.

Dinkins campaigned under a theme of "healing," pledging to make racial harmony a centerpiece of his administration.

He had been under fire from critics for what they called his reluctance to speak out on the city's growing racial strife.

Sammy Davis Jr. 'seriously ill'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. weighs only 27 kilograms and appears to be losing his battle with throat cancer, a close friend has said.

"He is very seriously ill and there seems little hope," the friend said. A spokeswoman for Davis, Susan Reynolds, said the 64-year-old entertainer was resting and there was no change in his condition.

Davis, who is five feet six inches (1.68 metres), used to weigh 57 kilograms. In February he underwent hospital radiation treatment for a second time for throat cancer and returned to his home in Beverly Hills. A stream of friends, including Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, who smoked two packets of cigarettes a day until recently, had just completed a concert tour with Sinatra when he first underwent treatment late last year.

Liz Taylor suffers complications

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor suffered complications including new infections in her fifth week of hospitalisation for pneumonia, and will remain hospitalised for about six more weeks, doctors said Friday. The recovery of Miss Taylor, near death two weeks ago with viral pneumonia, was dealt a setback by bacterial pneumonia and a yeast infection, her doctors said. During the next 1½ months, she will require intravenous therapy in the hospital, they said in a statement released by St. John's Hospital and health centre.

Bacterial pneumonia is generally considered less serious than the viral pneumonia Miss Taylor initially contracted. That's because antibiotics are effective against bacterial but not viruses. "She is tolerating this therapy extremely well and her doctors are pleased with her progress," Miss Taylor's publicist, Chen Sam, said. Earlier this week, Ms. Sam said the 58-year-old actress was improving and would be released from the hospital this week to recuperate at home.

Fashion designer's will challenged

NEW YORK (AP) — The widow of Italian fashion magnate Aldo Gucci has attacked as fraudulent a will that leaves all of his U.S. property to the woman he lived with and to the daughter she bore him. Gucci died on Jan. 19 in Rome at age 84. He left an estate worth millions of dollars, but his will, filed for probate in Manhattan's Surrogate Court, says only that the estate is worth more than \$500,000. Gucci's will, executed in Palm Beach, Florida, on Nov. 3, 1989, leaves half of his U.S. estate "to my wife Bruna Palombo Gucci" and half to their daughter Patricia Gucci Losio, 25. The daughter's share includes a cooperative apartment on West 54th Street near Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, and art, antiques and furniture. A challenge to the will was filed two weeks ago by Olwen Price, 82, Gucci's English-born first wife who bore him three sons. Price, who lives in Rome, and two of the sons, Paolo of West Sussex, England, and Roberto of Florence, say the will was "not freely or voluntarily made."

Dhaka expels 5,000 students for cheating

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh school examination officials said they expelled more than 5,000 students for cheating on the first day of college entry examinations and dismissed 10 teachers for helping cheaters. Teachers hid under tables and angry students buried stones, shoes and coconut shells at police during a riotous opening day of the secondary school certificate tests. Nearly 450,000 students will take the month-long tests to qualify for college. Police fired birdshot and used batons and teargas to restore order at 50 centres, where many students marched and demonstrated in support of their right to cheat. Fifty people were arrested and more than 100 injured in the clashes. Widespread cheating is a regular feature in Bangladesh school, college and university examinations, despite frequent attempts to eliminate it.

Pope urges converts to return to church

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico (R) — Pope John Paul has pleaded with Roman Catholics who have joined fast-growing Protestant fundamentalist sects in Latin America to return to the church, saying they would be welcomed back "with open arms."

The Pope, on the sixth day of a gruelling eight-day trip across Mexico, made the comments in a homily at an outdoor mass celebrated for hundreds of thousands of people in Villahermosa, near the Guatemalan border.

Using the gospel parable of the vine and the branches, the Pope

said: "It is a painful fact that some have broken this bond of unity ... by joining the sects."

Pleading with those who have joined the Protestant groups, the Pope said:

"Come back, without fear. The church awaits you with open arms. Nothing would make the heart of the Pope more happy ... than if those who have left would return to the bosom of the church."

He spoke to the huge crowd, one of the largest he has attracted during the trip, from a three-

tiered altar-platform resembling an ancient Mayan temple.

It was the third time since the trip began Sunday that the Pope referred to the problem of the Protestant sects, underscoring his and Latin American Catholic leaders' concern over the rapid growth of fundamental Evangelicalism.

The groups, most of which are based in the United States, have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers, particularly through the use of religious television broadcasts.

Thatcher: My work is not yet done

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, making the best out of bad political and economic news, came out fighting Saturday and vowed to lead her embattled Conservative Party to a fourth election victory.

"A woman's work is never done," she told a party conference in Scotland's oil capital, Aberdeen, in a speech designed to show the tide is turning in favour of the Conservatives.

She said radical policies had helped her to win three general elections since 1979 and they would help her to win a fourth, which must be called by mid-1992.

"If we play as a team and keep our eye on the ball, we can make it a Conservative grand slam," Thatcher said.

After slipping more than 25 points behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls, the Conservatives have detected signs of an improvement in their fortunes.

Conservative strategists drew comfort from local elections on May 3 when gains by Labour were nowhere near as large as had been predicted.

The results were seen as a setback for former Conservative cabinet minister Michael Heseltine, who has been running an undeclared campaign for the party leadership.

A jump in annual inflation Friday from 8.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent, the highest rate in eight years, also heartened Conservatives who had feared the figure might top 10 per cent.

After months in which Thatcher's personal popularity has slumped as a result of a new poll tax imposed to fund local services, senior party members have made a concerted attempt to boost her standing.

Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker said Friday that now was no time to "drop the pilot" and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd spoke of a sea change in the party's fortunes.

Incendiary device may have caused Philippine plane blast

MANILA (R) — A small incendiary device may have caused the blast and fire that killed eight people aboard a Philippine Airlines Boeing 737 jet, an official said Saturday.

Galileo Baniqued, chief of the government's Aircraft Safety and Accident Investigation Division, said in a telephone interview the explosion on the plane might have been caused by "an unsophisticated set-up like an incendiary device."

"It must be something inside the plane. There are hand-carried luggage where explosives can be inserted and smuggled into the plane," he said.

He dismissed the possibility that plastic explosives timed to blow up when the jet was in the air caused the blast. "That does not appear to be the case here because you would need a fistful of the material and a complicated timing device," he said.

The explosion was not big enough and did not wreck the windows of the plane, but it ignited a blaze that forced the passengers to jump from the burning aircraft, he said.

Baniqued said he had no idea who would try to blow up the plane, which was being towed down the runway at Manila airport Friday for a flight to the central Philippine city of Iloilo.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident. Security was tightened around Manila's international and domestic airports following the incident, officials said.

Another body was discovered inside the wrecked aircraft Saturday morning, raising the death toll to eight, an airline official said.

Seven bodies were recovered Friday and 87 people were taken to hospitals suffering from burns, smoke inhalation and broken bones.

The eight dead, including a child and six women, were among the 113 passengers. The plane also carried a crew of six.

"We could not even tell if it was a man or a woman," airline spokesman Enrique Santos said in an interview about the body found in the plane's mid-section where the explosion occurred.

Police have started picking through the wreckage of the plane to determine whether the bomb was planted on board, officials said.

Hess brought Churchill special terms in return for neutrality or support

LONDON (R) — A Soviet KGB official said Friday that Adolf Hitler sent top aide Rudolf Hess to Britain during World War II to offer Winston Churchill special terms in return for British neutrality or support.

Colonel Igor Frelin, chief spokesman for the KGB secret police, made the remarks in London where he is promoting a Soviet film on double agent Kim Philby which will be shown on British television next week.

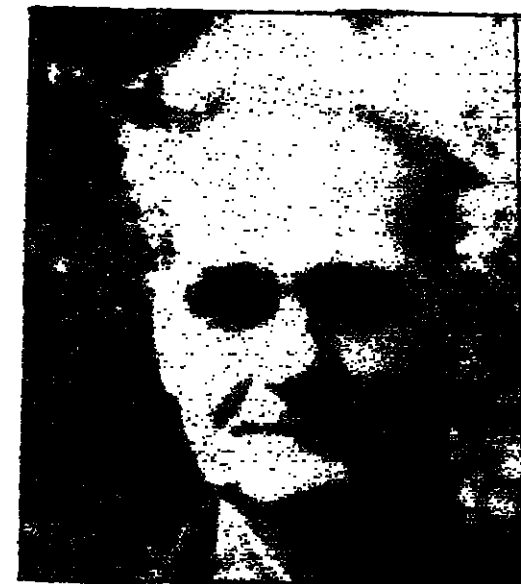
Frelin told reporters Philby supplies information about Hess's May 1941 flight to Scotland, one of the great mysteries of the war.

"Hess brought two proposals to Britain from Hitler: First if Britain remained neutral it would not be subject to German air attack. It would be able to retain its empire and still maintain a dominant position in the Middle East," Frelin said.

"The second proposal was that if Britain fought on the same side as Germany the two countries would largely be able to divide the world between them."

"Britain would retain its empire. It would take control of the Caucasus region and Soviet Central Asia... Japan would be dominant in the Far East, taking over the French colonies in Indo-China, Germany would be the dominant power in Europe and North Africa," Frelin added.

"Churchill rejected these terms. He realised that if Hitler is able to knock out the Soviet Union he would be powerful enough to defeat Britain. There was no reason to think that Hitler would keep his word," he said.



Rudolf Hess

Frelin said some of the information came through Philby, based on what the mediator between Churchill and Hess said.

British films on the subject will not be made public until the year 2007.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said Wednesday the documentary "The Cambridge Graduate" showed that while Philby was working for British intelligence he passed details to Moscow about Hess's flight within three days.

Noriega's attorney gets help from Cuban president

MIAMI (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has lent a hand to Manuel Noriega in his drug-trafficking case, the ousted Panamanian leader's lawyers said.

The Cuban president met with Noriega's defence team in March, attorney Frank Rubino said Friday, adding that he couldn't reveal what Castro told them due to the classified nature of the information.

"Fidel Castro met with some of Gen. Noriega's lawyers and discussed certain sensitive issues with us," Rubino told the Miami Herald. "He further provided us with certain documentation."

Castro was quoted by a Brazilian television reporter as saying his information will clear Noriega.

"I have even talked with Noriega's lawyers," Castro said. "If this is the evidence (prosecu-

tors) have against Noriega, then they have no evidence against him, and I have all the proof which proves the falsehoods of the accusations."

The Cuban leader did not say what kind of evidence he gave the lawyers, but claimed "to have all the cards in my hands to irrefutably prove the lies."

According to a February 1988 indictment, Castro mediated a dispute in 1984 between Noriega and Colombia's Medellin drug cartel over a raid on a drug lab the Panamanian leader had supposedly been paid to protect.

Noriega is held at the Federal Metropolitan Correctional Centre outside the Miami awaiting trial on charges he took money from the cartel to make his country a safe haven for cocaine smuggling.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge

William Hoeweler ordered prosecutors to explain why it gave \$5.8 million confiscated from Noriega to Panama's new government.

Hoeweler said it appeared the U.S. government had failed to follow normal legal procedures before surrendering the cash found at Noriega's quarters in Panama during the U.S. invasion in December.

"Although it's not coming to have \$5 million or \$6 million in one's bedroom... it appears the money was his," the judge said. "That raises an interesting question about what right the government had to give it away."

Hoeweler spoke during a hearing called by defence attorney, who've threatened to withdraw, saying they haven't been paid since Noriega was captured on Jan. 4, two weeks after the inva-

sion began.

Prosecutors have seized \$20 million in 27 bank accounts around the world. The defence says Noriega must have earned at least some money legally during his 25-year career as military officer and, more recently, the facto ruler of Panama, and told the judge it needs some of that money to represent Noriega in the complex, expensive case.

Hoeweler has ordered prosecutors to show why the money shouldn't be released to Noriega and his attorneys, saying the government has an obligation to show money was obtained illegally before freezing accounts.

Hoeweler also questioned the defence contention that Noriega had no information of his own about where his assets were, saying he wanted the general to tell him by the next hearing.